

Hizbollah denies holding Waite

BEIRUT (AP) — Hizbollah, an Iranian-backed Shiite militant faction, on Monday rejected charges by Druze leader Walid Junblatt that it holds missing Anglican church hostage negotiator Terry Waite. Earlier, an American envoy, Mohammad Mehdi, called for a U.S.-led embargo on arms sales to the Middle East, saying it would "end the civil war in Lebanon and halt a spate of kidnappings" (See page 2). The statement issued by Hizbollah said: "We strongly deplore the accusation by Mr. Junblatt concerning our involvement in the abduction of the so-called Terry Waite." We like to believe that this was an unintentional error made to still the appetite of the Western press, which is gasping after anything new about the hostages held in Lebanon. We appreciate Mr. Junblatt's embarrassment over Mr. Waite's abduction. But he fully realises that we do not know any more than he does about the kidnappers who were said to be negotiating with the Anglican emissary.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تحت إشراف المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Spanish defence chief arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spanish Defence Minister Marías Serra flies in today from Riyadh on a three-day official visit to the Kingdom, a Spanish embassy spokesman said Monday. Mr. Serra's visit to Jordan is his second and final leg of a Middle East tour, and observers believe that defence cooperation between Jordan and Spain will top the agenda of talks between Mr. Serra and his host, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Mr. Serra, who will be heading a senior six-member military delegation on the visit, is also expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein and meet with a number of senior civil and military officials. The embassy spokesman said. On Wednesday evening, Mr. Serra is scheduled to give a press conference at the Amman Plaza hotel to outline the outcome of his talks with Jordanian officials.

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Justice ministers council chief arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Omar Miklo, secretary-general of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers, arrived here on Monday for talks with Justice Minister Riyadh Shakaa and other officials on preparations for a meeting of the council in Amman next month.

Israeli police raid AIC office

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police on Monday raided and then closed for six months the offices of a pro-Palestinian Israeli leftist group, taking away six of its members and stacks of documents, police said. A police spokesman charged that the Alternative Information Centre (AIC) in West Jerusalem acted on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The AIC is best known for support of Palestinian nationalist causes. It publishes a bi-monthly newsletter listing Israeli violations of Palestinian rights.

President confirms death sentence on ex-mayor of Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has confirmed death sentences passed on five officials, including a former mayor of Baghdad, for taking bribes, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Monday. Ex-Mayor Abdul Wahab Mohammad Latif Al Mufid, sacked last June for "fiscal failings," accepted bribes and commissions from foreign firms in exchange for information on projects in Iraq, INA said, quoting a presidential decree. The decree said Sabri William Nassiri, a chief engineer, Fahmi Jerjis Fathallah and Mohammad Saleh Hassan Mohammad Al-Ah, both engineers, were the ex-mayor's accomplices, working for the state establishment for roads and bridges. The position of the fifth man sentenced to death, Sami Majeedella Yassawi, was not given.

Britons trust Gorbachev more than they do Reagan

LONDON (R) — Fewer than one in three people in Britain — Washington's closest ally — believe President Reagan is more likely to end the nuclear arms race than Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, according to a European poll published Monday. The Guardian newspaper's Marplan poll showed that 35 per cent thought the Soviet Union genuinely wanted to end the race, while 31 per cent thought the United States had the same aim, the Guardian said. A majority of people in Britain (56 per cent), West Germany (66 per cent), France (60 per cent) and Italy (68 per cent), where the poll was conducted, opposed stocking U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe.

Iran Air protests German TV 'insults'

FRANKFURT (R) — Iran Air cancelled Monday's flight to Tehran after a television show which, it said, insulted Iranian Revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "Protesting against the insults against the world Muslim leader 'Imam Khomeini' on German Television," Iran Air employees, on behalf of all Muslims, as a sign of their contempt are on strike," the airline said in a statement.

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Hundreds of Arabs clash with Israeli occupation soldiers

Palestinian protests spread to most towns and camps in occupied territories

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli soldiers clashed with hundreds of Palestinian protesters in nearly a dozen towns and refugee camps on Monday and four Palestinian students and two Israelis were injured, Israel Radio and Palestinian sources said.

The students, rallying for the eighth straight day to protest the militia siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, waved Palestinian flags and shouted slogans in support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "The trouble started when the students expressed solidarity with Palestinians in the refugee camps besieged by Amal," said Ibrahim Kareem, editor of the Palestine Press Service which monitors events in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Kareem said in a telephone interview the violence was exacerbated by Israeli "harassment... these demonstrations will continue as long as there is an occupation."

Israel Radio centred its reports on protests in the occupied West Bank, where it said Palestinians smashed the windows of Israeli cars in the town of Ramallah. It

said one Israeli motorist was injured in the foot by stones.

Another driver was struck by a stone and slightly injured near the Dheisheh refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem, the radio said.

Palestinian students also set fire to tyres and threw stones in East Jerusalem and on the outskirts of the walled Old City, the radio said.

In the seaside Gaza Strip students demonstrated in several towns and refugee camps, as well as outside the Islamic University, which was closed by military authorities for three days, Palestinian sources said.

Palestinian sources said the army fired shots and tear-gas to disperse demonstrators on the main street of Gaza City.

One Palestinian reporter calling from Gaza City held up the phone so AP reporters in Tel

Aviv could hear the sounds of gunshots.

About 500 students rallied in Gaza City, said the Palestinian reporter.

A girl and three boys were injured and taken to Shifa Hospital, the reporter and the Palestine Press Service said.

AP photographer Max Nash said the army ordered all Israeli cars, identified by yellow licence plates, to drive into the Gaza police compound for about an hour after Palestinians threw rocks at cars along the main shopping street.

The compound itself came under a hail of rocks until troops dispersed them.

After backed-up traffic began moving again along the main road, a group of five Palestinians set up a roadblock made of boulders, tins and strips of wire.

The military dispatched a water cannon vehicle and four Israeli jeeps with soldiers and border police to disperse the protesters and clear the main street and adjacent narrow alleyways.

After the area was cleared soldiers forced Palestinians to pick up the debris and banged with nightsticks on the shutters of shops along the main street, ordering the shopkeepers to open. Most stores remained shut.

Siege-weary Palestinian refugees stockpile food in Rashidiyeh camp

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians in their thousands trudged out of the South Lebanon camp of Rashidiyeh again on Monday, but many apparently feared relief from the camps war siege was only temporary.

Scores brought out bundles of belongings, leaving the camp for fear of further violence, as women in headscarves went back in with as much as they could balance on their heads or load onto their backs.

"Tyre is now out of food supplies. The Palestinians have bought everything, even food for birds," one shop owner said in Tyre, near Rashidiyeh, where some 20,000 refugees live.

The besieging Shi'ite Amal militia first lifted its 17-week

siege of Rashidiyeh on Sunday and said it would allow refugees out every day to shop for food and medicine.

"The siege is not yet lifted, and the problem is not completely solved. There are still lots of weapons and arms in the camp," said one Amal official in Tyre.

Sporadic rocket and gun-fire kept tension high around the two other Amal-besieged camps, Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila in Beirut, where more than 30,000 people were reported eating domestic animals and rats to ward off starvation.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said one man was killed and two wounded in the clashes around Shatila.

Amal's partial lift of the siege

appeared designed to cool the 21-month-old intermittent confrontation between the militiamen and the Palestinians. However, there were no indications that blockade of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila would be lifted.

A U.N. spokeswoman said Amal officials have "refused to allow more food into Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila."

Palestinian officials said 15 families of about 90 women and children were allowed Monday to leave Bourj Al Barajneh to the smaller Mar Elias camp, which is protected by neutral militiamen.

Palestinian sources said the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) sent a truckload of flour into Rashidiyeh Sunday.

(Continued on page 2)

Amal and Communist fighters renew battles

BEIRUT (R) — Explosions rocked west Beirut on Monday as street battles between Shi'ite Muslim and leftist militias erupted for the second consecutive day, police said.

They said civilians fled for cover as scores of militiamen in full combat gear took to streets at dusk, firing machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The fighting pitted the Shi'ite Amal militia against the pro-Soviet Communist Party, backed by the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Amal sources said.

They said the battles were confined to the Tariq Al Jdeideh district and the Mazraa thoroughfare, where the Voice of the Homeland radio said several cars and buildings were ablaze.

It was not known what caused the fighting, which came after Amal-Communist battles killed five people and wounded 28 on Sunday.

Sunday's four-hour battles, mainly in the Sanayeh and Hamra districts, were sparked by a dispute over the opening of a new Amal office near a Communist Party centre.

Israeli panel blacks out news on Iran hearings

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A panel investigating Israel's role in weapons sales to Iran imposed a weapons blackout on hearings scheduled for Monday.

The apparent resumption of the Israeli probe came while Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was visiting the United States where American officials were expected to pressure Israel for more information on its role in the arms deals.

The six-member subcommittee of parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee stepped up a probe of the arms deals two weeks ago after a U.S. Senate report accused Israel of greater involvement in the scandal than acknowledged by the government.

The intelligence services subcommittee has questioned Israel's two official liaisons with Washington for the deals, Amir Nir, the prime minister's advisor, and David Kimche, former director of the foreign ministry.

Committee chairman Abba Eban said last week the committee would question two key weapons dealers, Yaakov Nimrodi and Al Schimmer, on Monday.

But committee members refused to confirm whether the hearing was held, saying they had orders against speaking to reporters about the subject.

In another development, News-

week magazine reported on Monday that evidence gathered from the National Security Council's computerised message system suggests senior U.S. administration officials were more heavily involved in arms sales to Iran and covert aid to Nicaragua contra rebels than previously established.

The magazine, quoting unnamed sources, also reports that former National Security Council aide Oliver North, fired after the Iran arms sales became public, did not operate alone but kept his superiors informed on everything.

The magazine, quoting a knowledgeable source, also reported that Adnan Khashoggi, a middleman in the arms affair, angered officials in his native Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis were upset because Mr. Khashoggi traded with Israel in the process, the magazine said. They had considered asking for his extradition from the United States but decided against it since no U.S. court would consider trading with Israel a valid charge, Newsweek said.

They then tried to impound his assets in Saudi Arabia, the magazine said, but found that Mr. Khashoggi had put up everything he owned there as collateral on a \$22.7 million loan.

"Khashoggi hasn't got a riyal in the kingdom," Newsweek quoted the source as saying.



KING MEETS ROMANIAN SPEAKER: His Majesty King Hussein on Monday receives Romanian National Assembly Speaker Nikolai Giocosa (centre) in a meeting attended by Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi (see story on page 3)

Cabinet endorses several measures to curb spending

Royal Decree approves increase in travel tax

AMMAN (Petra) — In a special meeting held on Monday, the Cabinet reviewed measures to organise public spending in various areas and endorsed a number of steps to achieve the goal.

The measures taken include — Strict adherence to the allocations earmarked in the 1987 fiscal budget pertaining to transport and travel allowances and fees; limiting the travel abroad of Jordanian official delegations and controlling official expenditures for parties and presentation allowances.

— Cancellation of all exemptions from customs duties on purchases of public supplies agreed upon after March 25, excluding those cases which get the Cabinet's prior approval.

— Cancellation of all overtime allowances except in cases warranted by the exigencies of work and approved beforehand by the Cabinet.

— No issuance of any public tenders unless previously endorsed by the Cabinet;

— A ban on recruitment of employees at the expense of labour-

ers' allocation accounts.

Also on Monday, a Royal Decree was issued endorsing an increase in travel tax to be paid by people leaving Jordan by air, land and sea. According to the new measure, every Jordanian leaving the country by air will pay a travel tax of JD 15. For Jordanian travellers using the sea route from Aqaba or the border points to leave the country the tax is JD 7 per head, according to the new measure.

Non-Jordanians leaving the country by air have to pay JD 7 per head. The tax is JD 5 per head if they use the sea or land routes.

Torricelli says West should support Iraq

By John Rice

BAGHDAD (AP) — The first U.S. congressman to visit Iraq since the disclosure of American arms sales to Iran called Monday for Western nations to tilt in favour of Baghdad to stop the expansion of Iran's fundamentalist Islamic revolution.

Representative Robert Torricelli, a Democrat from New Jersey, urged an economic and military boycott of Iran if it would not agree to end the six-year-old war and did not respond to diplomatic pressure.

"I think an Iraqi diplomatic tilt is justifiable and required, in that Iran is clearly now cast in the position of the aggressor nation and that it is in our strong interest that an Iranian military advance not succeed," Mr. Torricelli said in an interview with reporters for two Western news agencies.

The American politician said Iran posed a threat not just to Iraq but to other countries in the Gulf region, which supplies a

large portion of the West's oil. "This fundamentalist revolution of Iran understands no international borders. It respects no other international interests," he added.

"It is important for nations that range from the United States and Israel to Western Europe and the Soviet Union to understand their own stake in the precarious defence of Basra," Mr. Torricelli said.

Mr. Torricelli said that the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan had placed too much emphasis on limiting Soviet expansion, while "the most dangerously expansive philosophy and nation in the world today may be represented by Iran as much as by the Soviet Union."

The United States resumed diplomatic relations with Iraq in November 1984, more than 17 years after they were broken off following the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Torricelli, a member of the House or Representatives Foreign

Affairs Committee, said American and European interests coincided on preventing an Iranian victory.

He said such a victory could jeopardise the flow of oil from the Gulf, threaten the security of Gulf states, and imperil Israel and the economies of Western Europe, the United States and Japan.

"Nations have been helping one side and hoping for the other to succeed," he said.

Mr. Torricelli suggested a "diplomatic offensive" by the United States, which could tilt the allies that American arms deliveries to Iran failed to work and that any similar European initiative "isn't going to work either."

"I believe the real answer is there should be a statement of clear conditions for ending the conflict, both sides (should) be asked to end hostilities and if either side continues then sanctions (should) be applied."

"Iran could not continue this war if her oil was not being

purchased and weapons were not being sold."

Mr. Torricelli, the first U.S. congressman to visit Iraq since 1984, said he had found it "relatively easy" to explain "there was not an interest by the United States to do damage to Iraq" by selling arms to Iran "since the arms sales were so clearly not in the security interests of the United States."

He said that although there was "no immediate, measurable impact" of the U.S. arms sales on the battlefield, they had "a chilling effect."

"I think you'd have to conclude that some armour would be held in reserve. Some flights would not be flown because of the fear of United States-supplied weaponry," but he said it was "not clear" to what extent tanks and airplanes were being lost to U.S.-supplied anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles.

Mr. Torricelli said he had met with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Gorbachev attacks U.S. over ABM agreement

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev accused the United States on Monday of seeking to shatter a major arms control treaty by a proposal that would permit extensive U.S. testing of its "Star Wars" space defence project.

Mr. Gorbachev said U.S. negotiators had formally proposed at arms talks in Geneva that the superpowers interpret the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty broadly enough to allow accelerated work on the strategic defence initiative (SDI).

"Whatever the pretexts used to justify this, the aim is clearly to scrap the treaty," Mr. Gorbachev said. "When the treaty is annulled, the nuclear arms race will acquire new dimensions and will be complemented by an arms race in space."

Mr. Gorbachev was speaking in the Kremlin to people from East, West and neutral countries who took part over the weekend in an officially sponsored conference devoted to discussion of the nuclear threat.

The Reagan administration has aroused concern among NATO allies by raising the idea of rein-

terpreting the ABM treaty.

Commenting on the U.S. decision not to join a Soviet freeze on nuclear tests, Mr. Gorbachev said: "We regret that continued American testing put an end to our moratorium. But our initiative has not been in vain."

"By our moratorium, we showed the world that a nuclear test ban is realistic, provided that there is the political will," Mr. Gorbachev said.

In his wide-ranging speech, Mr. Gorbachev said the Kremlin had adopted a new approach to human rights, but insisted the change was not made to please the West.

Mr. Gorbachev did not discuss human rights in detail, but said: "Our new approach to the humanitarian problems... is there for all to see. And I must disappoint those who think that this has been the result of pressure on us from the West, that we want to gain somebody's fancy in pursuit of some ulterior motives. No, we do not."

Congress panel criticises Reagan; "Star Wars" weapons could be used against civilian targets, page 8

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Gemayel meets Thatcher and Runcie but hopes for Waite focus elsewhere

LONDON (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel offered little more than sympathy when he met Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Monday to discuss the plight of Anglican envoy Terry Waite and other Western hostages in Lebanon.

British officials said hopes for Mr. Waite's release centred on an appeal to his abductors by Druze leader Walid Junblatt.

Mr. Waite, one of 26 Westerners kidnapped or missing in Lebanon, vanished after leaving the protection of a Druze militia escort on Jan. 20 to negotiate with the kidnappers of four U.S. hostages.

Mr. Gemayel met Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Sunday and had lunch with Mr. Waite's superior, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, after his meeting with Mrs. Thatcher.

A spokeswoman for the archbishop dismissed as "pure speculation" newspaper reports in Beirut that two special envoys were being sent to Damascus to try to obtain Mr. Waite's release and said there was still no further news on his whereabouts.

The officials said Mr. Gemayel was not in a position to offer much more than sympathy during the talks with Mrs. Thatcher.

They pointed to the fact that most of Lebanon and in particular the capital is ruled by various factions, with the government helpless to intervene.

The fate of other Britons abducted in Beirut was also raised during the talks. They include television crewman John McCarthy and journalist Alec Collett.

Britain believes Mr. Waite is being held by pro-Iranian Hizbollah gunmen. Apart from Sunday's appeal by Mr. Junblatt to his kidnappers officials said they were hoping that a personal message to the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, from

Archbishop Runcie several days ago will have some effect.

Mr. Rafsanjani, seen as one of the more powerful figures in Iran's fundamentalist leadership, has said he would be prepared to offer any help he could to secure Mr. Waite's release.

Officials hope that if Hizbollah are holding Mr. Waite then Mr. Rafsanjani could be prevailed upon to bring pressure to bear for his freedom.

The Lebanese president is on what is billed as a private visit to Belgium, France and Britain aimed at drumming up economic aid for his beleaguered country.

One of his key advisers, former Lebanese Ambassador to the United Nations Ghassan Tuani, said Mr. Waite had been advised not to go to Beirut by Mr. Gemayel's administration.

Mr. Tuani told reporters: "We were against the method which was adopted in dealing with hostage takers. We advised Waite not to come."

He refused to say if Mr. Gemayel knew where Mr. Waite was being held hostage.

Rebels claim killing top Ahwaz prison official

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Iranian underground movement, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, said Monday that the head of a political detention centre in southern Iran was killed last Friday by its members.

In a telexed statement received at the Jordan Times, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said reports from their command headquarters in Khuzestan province indicated that Jamshid Ghare Savari, head of a prison for political prisoners in Ahwaz, was killed in an attack by Mujahadeen combatants on Friday.

The statement described Savari as the "principal official responsible for suppression, torture and the warring mobilisation of the (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini regime in the city."

It said Savari was also responsible for execution and torture of thousands of political prisoners who had been arrested and executed in Ahwaz from 1981 to 1987.

"He had personally sent many People's Mujahadeen prisoners who were serving their sentences to firing squads on charges of organising resistance in the prison," said the statement.

He had constructed several special cells for torture and harassment of female Mujahadeen prisoners next to his office," it said. "Since March 1984, he became also active in the Khomeini regime's warring mobilisation and cooperated closely with the so-called 'Khatam Al Anbia', and 'karbala' bases."

The name of Jamshid Ghare Savari was published last year by the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq in a "list of names of torturers in the Khomeini regime's prisons."

Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said Friday that the brother of Iranian President Ali Khamenei was wounded in a grenade attack.

An Iranian newspaper said Sunday that the man who threw the hand grenade at Hadi Khamenei, younger brother of President Khamenei, was killed by Revolutionary Guards.

Minister of Information Mohammad Mohammadi

GCC ministers reach agreement on security strategy based on Islamic law

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Interior ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreed on a common security strategy based on Islamic law at a one-day meeting in Muscat.

GCC foreign ministers are expected to ratify the plan at a meeting in Riyadh on Tuesday.

Gulf news agencies quoted Oman's Interior Minister Sayyed Badr Ibn Saoud Ibn Hareb as saying after Sunday's Muscat session that the strategy presented principles "derived from Sharia (Islamic law) and regional links between GCC member states."

He said it aimed at promoting cooperation between GCC security officers "to achieve regional stability in the light of the changing situation in the region," an apparent reference to the Gulf war and attacks in the region.

Mr. Sayyed Badr gave no details of the plan put together at a recent meeting of interior ministry undersecretaries from GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Asserting that the alliance's security was "indivisible," the interior ministers wound up the conference and moved closer to integrated police cooperation by

ratifying the security strategy.

Saudi Arabia's interior minister, Prince Nayef Ibn Abdel Aziz, said Sunday's move was "a big step towards protecting the economic and social achievements of the GCC countries."

The ministers said their countries were ready to take joint, but unspecified measures to safeguard stability and preserve security in all GCC states.

The security strategy has to be further ratified by the GCC's heads of state at the alliance's annual summit in November.

Kuwait, the GCC member closest to the Gulf war zone, has in recent years been hit by terrorist attacks blamed on pro-Iranians.

The latest were bombings last month at Kuwaiti oil installations and in Kuwait City on the eve of an Islamic summit conference.

Iran accused Kuwait of aiding Iraq and boycotted the summit.

The U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait were also hit in a wave of bombings in 1983.

An attempt was made to assassinate Kuwait's ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in 1985.

Two months later seaside cafes were bombed and oil installations were sabotaged.

There also have been minor bombings in Saudi Arabia in recent years and a Kuwaiti jetliner was hijacked to Tehran.

Ibrahim Sobji, the GCC's assistant secretary-general, said in a statement after the conference that it expressed support for Kuwait's security and stability.

Prince Nayef said last week that the proposed strategy would envisage collective action to combat all forms of crime.

He also said "a first step" in implementing the strategy was a joint security pact.

Sources quoted by AP said it also envisioned mutual extradition of criminals, exchanging anti-terrorism intelligence and coordinating police investigations.

Kuwait had rejected the joint security pact, mainly because it called for a policy of hot pursuit of criminals by security forces of any GCC country 40 kilometres into the territory of any other member country.

The Kuwaitis complained that would allow foreign security forces right into the heart of Kuwait City.

Prince Nayef's statement indicated that Kuwait no longer rejected the security pact.

Israel begins trial of Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An alleged Nazi war criminal went on trial in Israel on Monday on charges of killing hundreds of thousands of Jews during World War II and his lawyer appealed immediately for his return to the United States.

Ukrainian-born John Demjanjuk, a 66-year-old retired car worker, was extradited from the United States last year to stand trial in Israel's first Nazi war crimes proceedings since Adolf Eichmann was tried and hanged a quarter-century ago.

Mr. Demjanjuk, of Cleveland, Ohio, faces the death penalty

under Israel's 1950 Nazis and Nazi collaborators law if found guilty of "crimes against Jews and humanity."

Defence attorney Mark O'Connor said in an opening statement the court should "hold the accused in custody and remand him to the United States of America."

He argued that the United States, which stripped Mr. Demjanjuk of his American citizenship in 1981 for allegedly lying about his wartime past, should prosecute his client.

Mr. Demjanjuk was deported to Israel to face charges because

the United States does not put on trial suspected Nazis for alleged crimes committed outside its borders.

In his opening statement, Mr. O'Connor challenged the Israeli court's jurisdiction to try his client, saying the crimes of which Mr. Demjanjuk was accused were committed in Europe before Israel came into being 38 years ago.

Similar defence arguments regarding court jurisdiction were made in the 1961 trial of Eichmann but were rejected by the court.

U.S. Muslim envoy calls for peace-for-hostages effort

BEIRUT (AP) — American Muslim envoy Mohammad Mehdi called Monday for a U.S.-led embargo on arms sales to the Middle East, saying such a move would eliminate the causes for war in the region and end a spate of kidnappings in Lebanon.

Mr. Mehdi, secretary-general of the New York-based National Council for Islamic Affairs, said at a news conference that his call was part of a "peace-for-hostages plan in contrast with President Ronald Reagan's weapons-for-hostages policy."

Speaking at a news conference at the Commodore Hotel in west Beirut, Mr. Mehdi said the proposed ban is "based on the assumption that terrorism is war and war is terrorism."

He said such an embargo will "eliminate the causes of war and hostage-taking."

The American Muslim leader,

accompanied by his assistant, Dale Shaheen, arrived in Beirut on Saturday, renewing a crusade to free 26 foreign hostages, including eight Americans, held by various extremist factions in Lebanon.

"We are appealing to the hostage-holders to release all the hostages unconditionally," he said.

"They (kidnappers) should free them unconditionally in the name of humanity, in the name of peace, in the name of Islam," he added.

Addressing Mr. Reagan, Mr. Mehdi said: "Mr. President, please if you are concerned with the safety of the hostages and if you want to help us to secure their freedom, please take the U.S. navy far away from the shores of Lebanon."

The United States has de-

ployed an armada of about 20 warships in the Mediterranean after one group of kidnappers threatened to kill three American educators and an Indian professor, abducted from Beirut University College Jan. 24.

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine had demanded that Israel free 400 Arab prisoners in return for the release of the four hostages and threatened to kill the captives if the demand was not met by Feb. 9. It later suspended the offer and set no new conditions.

Mr. Mehdi said he was not prepared to make any financial offers to the kidnappers.

"Thanks God, we have no money to offer and we are not prepared to raise money for ransom. We are not prepared to discuss ransom," he said.

He said he was carrying letters

to American hostages Joseph Cicippio and Frank Reed from relatives in the United States.

Mr. Cicippio's letter is from his brother, Thomas, and Mr. Reed's is from his daughter, Marilyn.

Mr. Cicippio and American hostage Edward Austin Tracy are held by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, Mr. Reed's abduction was claimed by the Arab Revolutionary Cells — Omar Mukhtar Forces.

Mr. Mehdi said he also was carrying a "verbal message" to American hostage Terry A. Anderson from his sister, Peggy Say.

Mr. Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, another American captive, have been held since 1985 by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad.

Mr. Mehdi and Mr. Shaheen first visited Lebanon last De-

cember.

Mr. Shaheen said he and Mr. Mehdi hoped their mission will be "more successful this time."

Mr. Mehdi said they have not established contact yet with any of the groups holding the hostages "mainly because the telephone system in Beirut does not function properly."

The two planned to meet Tuesday with Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, the spiritual head of Lebanon's Shi'ite community.

Mr. Mehdi said he also will seek freedom for 2,000 Lebanese civil war kidnap victims and Anglican church envoy Terry Waite "if he is a hostage."

"We believe he (Mr. Waite) is a missing person rather than a hostage," Mr. Mehdi said.

Abu Abbas regrets failure of Achille Lauro hijack

ATHENS (R) — A Palestinian believed to have masterminded the Achille Lauro hijack was quoted by a Greek newspaper on Monday as saying he would do it again.

Mohammad Abbas, (Abu Abbas), a leading member of the Palestine Liberation Front and the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told the newspaper Proti he was sorry the hijacking of the Italian luxury cruise liner had failed.

"Whenever someone asks me about the Achille Lauro I feel sad because the operation was not successful," he was quoted as saying. "Of course I would do it again if my struggle demanded it."

The Achille Lauro was seized near Egypt in October 1985 with more than 430 people on board. An American passenger was killed.

Proti said it obtained an interview with Abu Abbas during a conference of Palestinian organisations in Algeria last week.

Abu Abbas said the hijacking of the ship was meant to be followed by a strike against military installations in Israel. He did not elaborate.

Abu Abbas accused the United States of giving maximum publicity to the Achille Lauro incident,

Somalis and Ethiopians dig in for new battle

BAILIDHIG, Somalia (R) — Somali and Ethiopian troops are digging in for further confrontation along their remote desert frontier after last week's clashes between air and ground forces up to 20 kilometres inside Somali territory.

A few kilometres across the hot dusty plain from this Somali border village, freshly dug earthen ramparts were clearly visible on the Ethiopian side of the border.

"They are still there," regional army commander General Mohammad Said Morgan told diplomats and journalists flown up from the capital Mogadishu.

Gen. Said Morgan added that 300 Ethiopian soldiers were killed and 40 captured when Somali forces repulsed an attack on six villages and towns, including Bailidhig, last Thursday.

He put Somali losses at 25 dead and 30 wounded.

Palestinians stockpile food

(Continued from page 1)

Druze leader Walid Junblatt called for an end to the fighting, but said: "We shall reject the disarming of Palestinians and their evacuation from certain areas."

Four trucks loaded with food supplies and mattresses drove into the camps of Buss and Bourj Al Shamali.

A spokeswoman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which cares for Palestinian refugees, said the trucks unloaded "47 tonnes of flour, 90,000 tins of sardines and 564 cans of skimmed milk" in the two camps.

"One hundred mattresses were unloaded in each camp," she said.

A police source in Tyre told AP that AP militants allowed the convoy to enter Buss and Bourj Al Shamali only after they confiscated "one-third of the flour."

UNRWA officials in Beirut declined comment.

A convoy of three trucks was in Sidon waiting for clearance to head to Rashidiyeh, the UNRWA spokeswoman said.

The Rashidiyeh residents,

gaunt but cheerful, bought up stocks of sugar, bread, potatoes and grains in Tyre.

"Mama, mama, I can smell fried eggs," shouted nine-year-old Samar to her mother.

Tyre residents said they doubted the peace would last long. "The guerrillas of (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat are still inside the camp with all their weapons," said one. "We expect the fighting to resume."

The Amal-Palestinian "camps war" which has flared repeatedly since 1985, has killed at least 800 people since the latest round of fighting began in Rashidiyeh on Sept. 30.

Amal has used the sieges to pressure Palestinians to withdraw from positions they won in hills east of Sidon.

The Palestinians have withdrawn from one village, Maghdoush, but Amal wants them to pull back further.

Local radios said Syrian military observers chaired a meeting Sunday night of Amal and Druze officials to discuss ways to reduce tension and end Lebanon's "camps war."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:50	Programme Review
15:55	Cartoons
16:20	Investigative
16:30	Ecology Workshop
17:00	Punk! Punk!
17:30	Festivals of the World
18:00	Religious programme
18:30	Arabic Series
19:30	Programme on Public Safety
19:50	Programme Review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:25	Tomorrow's programme
21:30	Law and the Society (Jocan)
22:10	Songs from the movies (Arabic)
23:00	News Summary in Arabic
23:18	Arabic Play
00:29	Close Down
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Moliere pour rire et pleurer
19:00	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Economics Made Easy
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Courage Along the Divide
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Fourth Arm
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 77111-19	
07:00	LightMusic
07:30	Newsday
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:05	Morning Show Cont.
11:00	Comedy
11:30	Easy Listening
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Readings
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Cont.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Pop Talk
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals, Old Favourites
17:00	Jordan Weekly
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
BBC WORLD SERVICE	
639, 720, 1232 KHz	
06:00	Newsday 06:30 Pierre Fourrier
06:45	Radio on Public Safety
07:00	World News 07:30 24 Hours
07:30	News Summary 07:30 News 7:40
08:00	Book Choice 07:45 The World Today
08:00	Newsday 08:30 Rock Solid
09:00	World News 09:30 24 Hours
09:30	News Summary 09:30 Computer
10:00	World News 10:00 World News
10:00	Newsday 10:15 Zoolook
10:30	Berlin 10:30 Puckin' said his World
11:00	World News 11:00 British Press
11:15	The World Today 11:30
11:30	Financial News; Look Ahead 11:45
12:00	World News 12:00 News Summary
12:30	Discovery 12:30 Play: Joe the Clown
13:00	World News 13:00 News About
13:15	World News 13:15 A Letter from Scotland 13:30 Sports Inter-
13:30	national 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15
14:00	Multitrack 1 14:45 Sports Round-up
15:00	World News 15:00 24 Hours
15:30	News Summary 15:30 Network UK
16:00	Outlook 16:45 Pierre Fourrier
17:00	Radio Newsworld 17:15 A Jolly
17:30	Good Show 18:00 World News 18:00
18:00	Commentary 18:15 Omnibus 18:45
19:00	The World Today 19:00 World News
19:45	A Letter from Scotland 19:15
20:00	Merridian 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00
20:00	Newsday 01:30 Musician of Words: Alexander Pushkin
VOICE OF AMERICA	
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz	
05:00	News 05:10 Newsday 05:30 VOA
06:00	Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsday
06:30	VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10
07:30	Newsday 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00
08:00	News 08:10 Newsday 08:30 VOA
09:00	Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsday
10:00	Focus 10:30 Special English & Features
11:00	Focus 11:30 Special English & Features
12:00	Focus 12:30 Special English & Features
13:00	Focus 13:30 Special English & Features
14:00	Focus 14:30 Special English & Features
15:00	Focus 15:30 Special English & Features
16:00	Focus 16:30 Special English & Features
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18:00	Focus 18:30 Special English & Features
19:00	Focus 19:30 Special English & Features
20:00	Focus 20:30 Special English & Features
21:00	Focus 21:30 Special English & Features
22:00	Focus 22:30 Special English & Features
23:00	Focus 23:30 Special English & Features
24:00	Focus 24:30 Special English & Features

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition entitled "Berdikian" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28).

* The Goethe Institute presents an exhibition entitled "Six Centuries of German Woodcut Art" at the Petra Bank Gallery — Wadi Saqr (until Feb. 22).

* Fine arts exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Feb. 23).

ABC NEWS

The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

VIDEO

"Olivier Messiaen" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 644371
American Centre Library .. 641520
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637005
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 629409
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Hussein Youth City .. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664225
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 12 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costume over 100 years old. Also models from Madaba, Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qatr (Ciudad Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munazzah, Jabal Lweideh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sector C, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624990.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweideh, Tel. 637440.
St. Basil Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Lweideh, mass in Italian language meet. every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 67890.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah, Tel. 775261.
Roman Catholic (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah, Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Smeisani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Suir), Tel. 811295.

PRAYER TIMES

06:55	Fajr
06:14	(Sunrise) Duha
12:00	Zuhr
14:58	Asr
17:25	Maghreb
18:44	Isha

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nablus residents thank King

AMMAN (Petra) Seven hundred citizens from Nablus Governorate on the occupied West Bank have sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for his continuous support to the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories. In their cable they praised the Jordanian government's decision to support teaching staff appointed by the Ministry of Education to posts in the West Bank after 1967.

Prince Hassan to co-chair new council

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will patronise the founding meeting of the Arab council for children and development, co-chaired by Prince Hassan and Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz, which will be held here in April. The founding of the council is in compliance with joint endeavours by the Crown Prince and Prince Talal to offer humanitarian assistance through joint Arab and international cooperation.

Saudi rulers congratulate Swareddahab

AMMAN (Petra) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz have congratulated Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, former head of the military council in Sudan, on his recovery from open-heart surgery which he underwent last week at the King Hussein Medical Centre. The congratulations were conveyed by Saudi Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Al Sultan during a visit he paid on Monday to Field Marshal Swareddahab at the medical centre.

JTV to screen documentary tonight

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Television (JTV) will tonight show a special documentary on the Arab people in the occupied West Bank entitled "Courage along the Divide" at 8:30 p.m. on both channels. The 90-minute documentary is produced and directed by Victor Shonfeld. It exposes the daily sufferings of the Arab population under Israeli occupation and also reflects the ideological struggle within Israeli society.

Tawjihi averages higher this year

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education on Monday announced the results of the general secondary study certificates (tawjihi) exams for the East and West Banks. Director general of exams at the ministry, Mr. Ahmad Al Taqi, said that the results for this year were good and that students' averages were higher than those for 1986. A total of 51,124 students sat for the exam in the East Bank in the literary, scientific, commercial, industrial, agricultural, nursing, postal and hotel training streams. Mr. Taqi added that 13,474 students took the tawjihi exams in the West Bank.

Czech official expected today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Czechoslovakian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Garcar Jhon is expected to arrive in Amman today for talks with senior Jordanian officials on means to further promote Jordanian-Czechoslovak trade and commerce relations. An official at the Czechoslovak embassy in Amman said Monday that Mr. Jhon was due to hold meetings with Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajal Muasher and Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Czechoslovakian trade committee.

Ministry to improve roads in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works plans to construct roads and carry out maintenance on others in Amman Governorate at a total cost of JD 711,000, according to Mr. Mohammad Nsour, director of public works in the Amman region. Mr. Nsour was speaking during a tour of areas which will be included in the project, on which work will start in the coming few days.

Drug trafficker receives life

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Subuh Hamdan to life imprisonment with hard labour and fined him JD 5,000 for trafficking drugs. The sentence was passed in absentia.

Cabinet recalls ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to transfer six ambassadors to the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Amman as of April 30. These are ambassadors Kamal Al Hmoud from Peking, Naser Al Batayneh from Bucharest, Walid Al Sa'ad from Belgrade, Amer Shammout from Abu Dhabi, Nabih Al Nimer from London and Saleh Al Kabarti from Baghdad. Ambassador Hani Tabbara will be transferred from Ankara to the Foreign Ministry in Amman as of June 15, 1987. The Cabinet also decided to retire Ambassador Mohammad Al Farrah as of Feb. 28 and Ambassador Mohammad Ali Khormah as of March 15. The Cabinet appointed Dr. Trad Saud Al Qadi, a former health minister, and Helmi Al Lawzi, a former assistant chief of staff, as ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry.

Shamir begins visit to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

in his government over the issue saying both wings of his coalition cabinet wanted direct peace negotiations with the Arab World.

"There are differences of view on the need and usefulness of a conference and I shall give all these views," he said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, head of the Labour faction in Mr. Shamir's cabinet, says a conference would lead to direct talks with the Arabs.

Mr. Peres' position received a boost last week when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who until now opposed the conference, said in a message to Israel that it was a possibility he wanted to discuss during Mr. Shamir's visit.

Asked about charges in the United States that Israel initiated the controversial arms-to-Iran deal, Mr. Shamir said: "We have

nothing to hide. I think we acted in accord with our relations with the United States and in accord with our consciences."

Asked about U.S. navy analyst Jonathan Pollard, who faces a long jail term in the United States on charges of spying for Israel, Mr. Shamir replied: "I don't think this will be a very important feature (of the trip) because what was done was done against our will and against the policy of the Israeli government."

Israel says Pollard was employed against standing rules by an Israeli intelligence agency which has since been disbanded because of its action.

A report published on Sunday raised doubts over the official Israeli line that Pollard was a small-time Israeli agent with limited access to information. According to the report Pollard provided a host of secret data on Arab and Islamic countries and their military programme to the Israeli intelligence network.



Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday briefs a Romanian parliamentary delegation on Jordan's efforts to achieve peace in the region (Petra photo)

Jordan, N. Yemen open economic talks today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and North Yemen today open talks aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields, according to an official announcement issued in Amman on Monday. The announcement said that the talks will be conducted through a joint Jordanian-North Yemeni committee formed upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, North Yemen's president. The joint committee is co-chaired by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and North Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani.

Jordan and Oman ratify commercial agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Oman Monday exchanged the ratification documents of a commercial and economic agreement concluded between the two countries on July 30, 1986.

The agreement and the minutes of the meeting were signed for Jordan by Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf and for the Omani side by Omani's Ambassador to Jordan Khamis Ibn Hamad Al Battashi.

The agreement provides for organising the export of agricultural and industrial products to both countries. Products shall be considered as industrial products for importation purposes, provided that they have a Jordanian or an Omani certificate of origin and that the value added tax is no more than 40 per cent.

Under the agreement, both

delegation, will arrive in Amman on Tuesday for a visit and talks with the Jordanian side. During their three-day stay in Jordan, the delegation will hold talks with Jordanian officials and will tour several economic institutions. Talks will cover economic and trade issues and the general Arab situation, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that the Jordanian side groups the undersecretaries of the Ministries of Industry and Trade, and Health and officials from the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs. The North Yemeni side includes senior officials and undersecretaries of several ministries.

Dr. Iryani, accompanied by his

countries agree to develop economic cooperation by setting up joint companies and economic projects in addition to supporting and employing capital from each country in the other.

The agreement also calls for offering the necessary facilities for the transit transport of products from one country to the other.

The agreement further called for the formation of a joint committee to be in charge of the implementation of the provisions of this agreement.

The minutes of the meeting, signed on Feb. 19, provide for discussing the establishment of a holding company for investments and for setting up specialised exhibitions in both countries, in addition to the exchange of visits between trade and industrial delegations from both countries.

University offers research, exam option for Masters

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contrary to reports published in the newspapers two weeks ago, the University of Jordan's thesis system for students preparing for their M.A. or M.Sc. degrees was not cancelled in any department, said Dr. Subhi Qasem, dean of graduate studies at the University of Jordan.

"What happened is that students now have, for the first time, another option to the Masters thesis," said Dr. Qasem. Several faculties are offering a programme at the post graduate level which includes a research project plus a comprehensive examination.

The research project is designed to familiarise students with research and scientific methodology while investigating aspects of problems in the Kingdom, Dr. Qasem explained. The comprehensive examination will consist of two papers. In each the student will be tested for three hours on how well he or she can integrate the knowledge he or she has acquired to solve a problem or

situation in the particular discipline, he added.

The Council of Deans approved this two option programme because some of the fields do not warrant a thesis. "In some departments only in-depth research is consistent with that discipline. Others such as management and Sharia can (and have) offered the two option programme," said Dr. Qasem.

"But all graduate studies must be linked to research."

"Even though students can choose which programme they want, in order to open the research project/examination, a sizeable number of students must express their interest," Dr. Qasem continued.

He feels that the aim of the Masters programme is to screen the student's ability to do research and that students who plan to continue for a Ph.D. should opt for a Masters thesis. By the end of this year most departments will have decided if they want to offer the option or not. "But no students will graduate without doing some kind of research," Dr. Qasem reaffirmed.

Applications for units at Abu Nuseir flood in

AMMAN (J.T.) — Large numbers of civil servants and other government employees have started applying to the Housing Corporation for housing units at the Abu Nuseir housing estate following the government's new measures to reduce the prices of units and to offer improved facilities for payment.

Housing Corporation Director General Shafiq Zawaideh said that more than 600 employees have so far applied and that the applications are being processed.

In the coming days the Housing Corporation expects to be inundated with applications exceeding the number of unsold housing units at Abu Nuseir, Mr. Zawaideh continued. If this happens, he said, the Housing Corporation will then give priority to those with a longer period of service in government offices. Mr. Zawaideh made it clear that since there is no longer an advance payment for these units, no priority will be given to those offering larger initial payments for the units.

In accordance with the new government measures, the majority of government employees are now in a position to pay monthly instalments for their units at Abu Nuseir, especially as many are now paying more rent than the instalments, Mr. Zawaideh said.

He said that a total of 2,652 housing units are for sale at Abu Nuseir estate, and that they are available for public sector employees at present.

At a press conference in Amman on Sunday, Mr. Zawaideh announced that the government has revised the prices of housing units at Abu Nuseir housing estate and decided on a number of measures to make it easier for beneficiaries to pay their instalments. He said that beneficiaries will not be required to pay an advance payment of 10 per cent of the total cost of the units. The government has also exempted beneficiaries from paying the cost of additional services at the housing estate and the treasury will cover this cost, estimated at JD 30 million, Mr. Zawaideh said.

The Housing Corporation will now be spreading the instalments for the new units over 30 instead of 25 years; and will be charging 5.5 per cent interest on the total price of the units in conformity with government decisions, which also said that the remaining unsold units will be offered to public sector employees.

Only half of the land allotted for the housing estate has been used for the construction of the units and the vacant units were to be available for sale to the public. The Abu Nuseir estate has been provided with essential services in addition to schools, and public transport facilities.

King receives speaker of Romania's National Assembly

Senate, Lower House speakers brief parliamentary delegation on Jordan's stands, Mideast issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received at the Royal Court Mr. Nikolai Giossan, speaker of Romania's National Assembly, who began an official visit to Jordan on Sunday.

The audience was attended by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Senator Amer Khammash, in addition to Secretary General of Parliament Hani Kheir and members of the delegation accompanying Mr. Giossan.

Mr. Lawzi and Speaker of the Lower House Akel Al Fayez also received Mr. Giossan in separate meetings and discussed bilateral relations and Romania's role in establishing peace in the region.

Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan considers the Palestine question to be the central issue in the Middle East conflict and the main reason for the lack of stability in the region. Mr. Lawzi added that the region is lacking all means of security and stability because of the creation of Israel and due to its occupation of Arab territories. Since its creation, Israel has been following an expansionist policy and is using all means of destruction to uproot the Palestinian people, Mr. Lawzi said.

He added that Israel has not only occupied Palestinian land, but has also denied the Palestinian people their humanitarian rights.

The inhuman acts practised by Israel against the Palestinian people have not so far resulted in any serious international effort to put an end to the Israeli aggression and Israel's violation of international laws and charters, Mr. Lawzi said.

The Senate speaker added that Jordan believes in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region and has therefore made intensive efforts to achieve this goal. King Hussein's efforts and meetings with world leaders, including Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu are a practical translation of Jordan's serious and keen desire to establish a just and durable peace, he continued.

Mr. Lawzi added that the international peace conference, called for by Jordan, is a forum where United Nations resolutions including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, could be implemented. Israel has always placed obstacles in the way of establishing peace in the region by rejecting all peaceful initiatives and by denying the Palestinians' legitimate rights, the Senate speaker continued.

Mr. Lawzi stressed the important role eastern and western European countries could play in the region and he called on Europe to play an active and practical role in supporting peace efforts in the region.

On the Iran-Iraq war, Mr. Lawzi said the continuation of the war jeopardises the security and stability of the Gulf countries.

On Lebanon, he said that Jordan supports the efforts made to unify Lebanon and to put an end to the ongoing fighting between brothers.

Mr. Giossan praised Jordanian-Romanian relations and the development of these relations and said that the leaders of the two countries hold identical views on international and pan-Arab issues as a result of their strong friendship.

He added that Romania fully agrees with Jordan on the necessity for an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and for giving the Palestinian people the right to self determination as well as the need to implement U.N. resolutions on the Palestine question. The implementation of these decisions, he said, are the actual bases for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Mr. Giossan stressed his country's support for all efforts made towards holding an international peace conference on the

Middle East question.

On the Iran-Iraq war, he said that his country believes in the urgent need to end the ongoing conflict and for the withdrawal of both countries forces to internationally recognised borders. This issue, he added, could be settled through direct negotiations and through peaceful means.

Mr. Fayez also received the Romanian official for discussions on the situation of Arab citizens living in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Fayez praised Romanian stands vis-a-vis Arab causes and its support for international efforts aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Fayez also said that Jordan denounces all forms of terrorism, noting that Israeli terrorism is limitless and is practised within the hearing and sight of the international community.

Mr. Giossan praised King Hussein's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis and for achieving Arab solidarity. He said that Romania denounces all forms of terrorism and that it differentiates between the struggle for liberation and terrorism.

The meetings were attended by a number of senators and deputies and the secretary general of Parliament.

Earlier Foreign Minister Taher Masri received Mr. Giossan and the accompanying delegation for discussions on bilateral relations.

Visit to refugee camp

Also Monday, Mr. Giossan and the accompanying delegation visited Baqaa camp for Palestine refugees where they were briefed on the camp's establishment and the services offered to the residents by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the Jordanian government. Mr. Giossan and the accompanying delegation then toured parts of the camp and visited some shelters.

The Romanian guest was accompanied by Senate member Amer Khammash and the Romanian ambassador to Jordan.

Tomato price rise to cost JD 2m annually

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A recent Cabinet decision to raise the price of locally produced tomatoes from JD 40 to JD 50 per tonne means that the government will be paying an estimated JD 2 million annually to subsidise production, a senior agriculture official said Monday.

The Cabinet, in a meeting on Saturday, decided to increase the purchase price per tonne of tomatoes bought on behalf of the Agricultural, Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) by JD 10 a tonne.

The objective behind the step "is to support tomato farmers who have been facing numerous marketing difficulties due to a tomato surplus," said the official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. AMPCO, a fully-fledged government owned company is responsible for purchasing produce grown by farmers who follow the agricultural cropping pattern, an initiative launched two years ago to assist farmers and organise the market.

Farmers who follow the pattern are requested to grow certain produce which is needed by the country and in return receive subsidies for each dunum of the allocated crops they grow. The

subsidies vary and range from JD 10 to JD 15, depending on the product and the season. AMPCO also runs a tomato paste and juice factory in the Ghor Al Safi area.

One farmer said that as a result of the new decision, the government is paying two subsidies at the same time; one for those who follow the pattern and another to those who follow the pattern and are also growing tomatoes.

This method, the farmer said, could mean that the government's earlier decision to encourage farmers to adhere to growing certain agricultural produce is bearing no fruit and appears to be clashing with the goal behind such a step.

Before the pattern was introduced, some Jordanian farmers opposed the move saying it would not organise the marketing as the growers will be producing the same products.

"An economist interviewed by the Jordan Times questioned the reason behind these two subsidies and said "why should the citizens shoulder the burden of such a decision?"

JVFA may be replaced with general federation

Also concerning the agricultural sector, there was speculation

that the government will soon dissolve the indebted Jordan Valley Farmers' Association (JVFA) to replace it with a general federation for Jordanian farmers. According to official figures issued in July 1986, the JVFA's accumulated debts and overdue payments amounted to almost JD 1.5 million and seasonal loans granted by the association to Jordan Valley farmers reached JD 2.7 million during the same period.

The JVFA had earlier called on the government to directly intervene in order to help straighten out the organisation's debts.

The organisation asked the government for a JD 2 million soft-loan in order to inject new funds and to cover transactions concerning farm inputs such as fodder, fertilisers, pesticides and equipment.

They also asked the Cabinet to cover the estimated JD 153,000 deficit for 1986.

The proposed dissolution of the association is presently under discussion and stipulates that specialised committees for various agricultural produce be set up to tackle issues related to the problems of growing and marketing the products. These committees will also form the board members of a general federation for Jordanian farmers.

MEMORIAL MASS

for Martha Abdel Razzak

On Tuesday February 17th at 4 p.m.
The Virgin Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church
Sweifeh, 6th Circle, Jabal Amman.
Condolences Tuesday and Wednesday at the family home, 8th Circle.

OBITUARY

The families of Abdel Razzak Salem Qteishat in Jordan and Beaumont in the U.S.A., and all their relatives, regret with deepest sorrow the demise of their dearly beloved:

MARTHA ABDEL RAZZAK

EX

MARTHA BEAUMONT

After an operation, on the 15th of Feb. 1987.

Condolences will be accepted at the house of the deceased, located on the 8th Circle in the direction of the Medical City Road 200 metres from the circle, for 3 days starting Feb. 16th, 1987.

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Taken for granted too long

ON the eve of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's 10-day visit to the United States, the Reagan administration has offered his country a new gift in the form of granting the Jewish state the one and only status of a kind, i.e., official ally of the U.S. to make his official visit to Washington start off on "good footing." It has been customary till now for visiting dignitaries to take with them gifts to the receiving states, but in the case of Israel, it is always on the receiving end as far as the U.S. is concerned.

We have known all along that Israel enjoys a special relationship with the U.S. It has been identified as a devoted ally or a strategic partner for some time already. But now the "engagement" is official and Israel is referred to as an official ally of the U.S., albeit a non-NATO one. This new status symbol acquired by Israel should generate in it even more arrogance vis-a-vis its Arab neighbours. If anything, the new Israeli status should make the peace process that much more arduous and difficult. As for the idea of the international peace conference which the U.S. secretary of state, George Shultz, wants to discuss amicably with Mr. Shamir, one can only conjecture that the "new efficiency acquired syndrome" obtained by Israel would have a negative effect on the whole idea. But we shall wait and see the outcome of the U.S.-Israeli official talks before we pass definitive judgements.

It would probably be presumptuous on our part to remind the U.S. government that allies of the U.S. usually listen to the counsel offered by Washington and do not spy on it or engage in activities which are detrimental to American national interests. Maybe the U.S. has forgotten the espionage conducted by Jonathan Pollard, the U.S. intelligence analyst who was caught spying for Israel, but we in the Arab World have not. Now we know that Pollard was no small fry but rather a big fish who prejudiced U.S. national and strategic interests in connivance with Israel. Likewise, we may remind the U.S. government that it was Israel which got it involved in the Iran arms scandal in the first place and we all now know the extent of the damage done to the U.S. image and credibility in the Middle East. Yet Israel has still been awarded a big prize, the official recognition of Israel's valuable services to the U.S. national interests beyond the call of duty.

We in the Arab World have become immune to shocks of the kind affecting or relating to U.S.-Israeli relations. If Israel is officially an ally of the U.S., how can we ever compete and hope to receive bona fide recognition and acceptance as valuable countries in the Middle East worthy of U.S. support and assistance? If the U.S. can never sacrifice an inch of Israeli national interests for a mile of Arab just causes, we become duty bound to recalculate our accounts and reexamine our relations with the U.S. If it is no longer tenable for us to be taken for granted for so long, if the U.S. cannot strike an equitable balance between Israel and some 20 Arab countries, then we and other Arab countries must make the ultimate decision and choose our final direction in a clear and unambiguous manner.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: U.S., Israel to bolster alliance

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday began a visit to the United States amidst reports that Washington intends to declare Israel as a special ally outside the limits of the NATO alliance, and Washington's agreement to the convening of an international conference. But a keen observer of political events and developments can clearly see that the strategic alliance which actually exists between Washington and Tel Aviv needs no such declaration about a new alliance, and it is obvious to all that the two sides are almost in total agreement on every issue and every policy concerning the Middle East and other world issues. Therefore Shamir's visit to the United States could be considered as an internal visit which would not aim at any change in objectives but rather a means of achieving the common goals. The strong alliance between the United States and Israel is of a kind that can outweigh all the peripheral and secondary differences that sometimes crop up between them including one that shocked the American public as a result of the espionage activity conducted by an Israeli agent in the United States.

Al Dustour: Shamir shuns peace

UPON boarding his plane for Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made it clear in a statement to the press that he would not accept any proposal from Washington about the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. Shamir's views represent the official Israeli ideas about any dealings with the U.S. or the Arabs although the Labour party in Israel has other views that accept some sort of a conference. We can only wait and see the outcome of Shamir's meetings in Washington and the result of his talks with American officials on the idea of this conference; and we will see if he can change Washington's position in this respect. Washington has been accustomed to changing its official policies with regard to the Middle East whenever Israel is opposing them. Most world nations are now in favour of such a conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict but one cannot guess about Washington's stands when it comes to hearing Israel's ideas. We actually expect Washington to come out in favour of Shamir's ideas and reverse its declaration about its acceptance of the idea of the international conference. But we are determined to hold on to our stand and continue to demand such a conference regardless of the U.S.-Israeli stands.

Sawt Al Shaab: Time for educational reforms

PRINCE Hassan's speech to educationalists and teachers in Irbid on Sunday was an embodiment of modern education which should be absorbed and implemented at a national level. The educational process as Prince Hassan pointed out should be regarded from the point of view of its ability to achieve the objectives and serve the interests of the Jordanian community. Education, he said, is an objective and a means at the same time, and serves the developing nations which look forward towards achieving progress and prosperity. Education should be directed towards serving the objectives of the community and should not be used as a means of merely graduating students from educational institutions without clear aim or target. Prince Hassan said that one quarter of a million Jordanians will have graduated from universities by the turn of the present century; and their existence presents a new challenge for the community they live in. Prince Hassan said that sound measures in administration and education should be followed if the graduates are not to become frustrated, and if the country they want to serve wishes to benefit. Prince Hassan made it clear that the universities and other educational institutions shoulder a serious responsibility in this respect and therefore, should present new concepts of education and offer practical means for serving the community.

The View From Second Circle

A Vote for Humility among the Ruins

By Rami G. Khouri

THOUGH I have not figured them out yet, I am absolutely sure that there are important parallels between contemporary events and what happened in our ancient land hundreds and even thousands of years ago. It is unfortunate that the intellectual balkanisation of modern man, in our age of narrow-focus specialists and experts, means there is little interplay between those amongst us who are inclined towards political developments, and those who spend most of their time studying the past, whether as historians, archaeologists, theologians, epigraphists or whatever other specialisation one may profess.

If you think about it for a while, it would seem logical and productive that our political leaders and scholars of history would engage one another in a supremely symbiotic and productive relationship, if they had the time and the will to do so. After all, when you take away the fancy wrapping and the big words, what do we have of enduring substance other than the history from whence we emanate, and the immediate priorities which we seek to meet?

When I use the term "political leaders," I do in the very broadest sense, meaning not only overtly political folk like a) members of the government, b) members of the parliament, c) angry, high-morality, impeccably Arabist newspaper columnists, or d) all those others in society trying to join the ranks of the above. I also mean people in positions to influence other people, to engage in and perhaps sometimes even define the rich public and private debate in our society about matters of over-riding public interest, such as the appropriate customs duties on disposable diapers (or—if you were swaddled, educated or otherwise culturally conditioned within the vast imperial clasp of Mother Britain—nappies), the relevance or otherwise of traffic circles (or—etc.—roundabouts), whether our students wear or do not wear school uniforms, and so on and so forth.

Among the political leaders I think of, other than elected and appointed government officials, are school teachers, business executives, leaders of professional and charitable groups, artists, religious personalities and traditional tribal leaders.

Many years ago, when I was studying political science at university, one of the few things I learned that I still remember was a definition of politics and political power, though the experience was obviously not overwhelming, because I cannot remember the fellow's name who coined the definition. It defined politics as the process by which societies selected people who made choices about

the allocation of scarce resources.

Political folk—that is, decision-makers and moulders of public opinion at all levels—and students of history should spend much more time together, particularly in countries and societies such as ours, where our histories are a great deal longer than our memories, and our resources rather more scarce than our human legacy.

I started having these thoughts several years ago, when my interest in contemporary politics was matched by an interest in our ancient history. The more I studied both, the more I realised that virtually all of what is happening around us today, in the political, social, economic, military or technological spheres, has happened in slightly different forms in the past.

What's your fancy? Persians knocking at the eastern gateway of the Arab World? Israelis threatening and occupying Arab lands? Shifting alliances among Arab political leaderships, tribes, confederations of tribes, countries, and entire civilisations? Ethnic banditry in the mountains along the east Mediterranean coastal plain? The lands of Syria and Egypt vying for political leadership of the region? Small, local Semitic states seeking security by allying themselves with foreign superpowers?

There is little that is qualitatively innovative in the Middle East today. The magnitude and technical sophistication of what we do is different and larger; but the human impetus is not. The factors that have always caused communities to cultivate and harness their human power, and to develop into durable states based on the best interest of their people, are timeless factors ingrained in human nature, rather than political factors embedded in a specific period of time or national reality.

The historians, archaeologists and other scholars of the past would say that they study the past for a better understanding of the development of ancient societies, which in turn might help us make those decisions today which would help us improve our own societies. My own impression, having looked into what happened on this land in ancient history while keeping an eye on what's going on today, is that the study of history has an added attraction that should be absolutely compelling for us, during an era when our foreign debt is rising, our reliance on external sources of financing remains very high and the value of what we consume is several times greater than the value of what we produce. That added

attraction is a sense of humility, and humbleness, in the face of the human endeavour on this same land during the past, oh, ten thousand years or so.

We have drawn on foreign money and foreign expertise. We have tried all sorts of fancy new technology. We have examined developmental concepts and theories of impressive complexity. But we seem largely to have ignored perhaps the single most relevant, field-tested resource within our grasp: Our own historical experience, in a land that has been drenched with history and human exploits.

I am not suggesting that ours is a failed society that should seek solace or salvation in past glories and ancient myths. To the contrary, I think we have an enviable record of human development and nation-building, of which we can be proud. But the challenges that face us today—unemployment, urban sprawl, socio-economic disparities, regional instability, capital flight, and rising political and material expectations, all within the context of political structures that have remained static for decades—cannot be solved by the same means that we have successfully used during the past half a century.

Most of the problems and challenges we have faced to date have been resolvable by the force of feasibility studies, joint ventures, new government agencies or new share issues on the stock market. That was during the initial historical phase of nation-building. Today, the challenges are much deeper. They are the challenges of sustaining and strengthening a nation, of endurance and creativity, of commitment and belonging, for which the terminology and technology of the mid-20th century suddenly seem irrelevant.

While we should appreciate that most of the themes and human impulses that define our land today are only the latest versions of patterns that have preceded us many times before, we would do well to recognise the fact that our region is rich in archaeological ruins. It's hard to walk anywhere in our ancient and holy land without stumbling over the ruins of successive ancient civilisations, whose common attribute was their eventual demise and destruction. Our historians and archaeologists have spent many years studying the reasons why our predecessors did not endure. I would think that they might have some useful anecdotes and information to share these days, should we have the inclination to be curious about all those ruins of ours.

New battle brewing in U.S. Congress over contra aid

By Valerie Strauss

Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's pet project, funding for the Nicaraguan contra rebels, has been damaged by the Iran arms scandal but the programme has not yet been dealt the knock-out blow sought by its opponents.

The first skirmish on the issue between Reagan and the new Democratic-dominated Congress may be waged this week, when \$40 million outstanding from last year's \$100 million in military and other aid for the contras is released.

Once Reagan announces his intention to use the money, Congress has 15 days to pass blocking legislation by a simple majority in both houses.

If Congress does so, Reagan is

virtually certain to veto the move. Congress must then muster a two-thirds majority to override the veto, which is considered unlikely.

Legislators who plan to try to block the funds admit there is little likelihood of success for the moment.

"Procedurally, the odds are against us, but that doesn't mean the effort should not be made," said representative Sam Gejdenson, a Democrat.

"Once we get past the present process, where the president has a clear advantage, it's a whole new ball game," said Gejdenson.

He and other congressmen are setting their sights on a second, perhaps decisive, battle later this year, when Reagan asks Congress for about \$105 million in new money for the rebels fighting the

leftist Sandinista government.

Opponents believe they can defeat the request because the contra programme has been seriously weakened by the Iran scandal and fresh signs of leadership disarray among the rebels.

Many congressmen have been infuriated by indications the White House may have circumvented their laws against funding the contras by secretly diverting to the rebels millions of dollars in profits from 1985-86 weapons sales to Tehran.

In the absence of popular support for contra funding, the programme depends heavily on Reagan himself but his credibility has been undermined by the Iran affair.

Some polls show more Americans now trust Congress on foreign policy than they do Reagan, who once declared: "I'm

a contra too."

U.S. contra aid began in 1982 but Congress cut it off in 1984 after the CIA was involved in mining Nicaragua's harbours.

Humanitarian aid resumed in 1985 and Congress approved renewed military assistance last year, largely because Reagan applied his political might on the undecided.

Supporters fear the Iran affair has left him too weak to repeat that success, particularly since Democrats added the Senate to their control of the House in last November's elections.

"People in the middle won't go down for the president again," Gejdenson said.

Administration cohesion on the contra programme was thrown in doubt last week when Secretary of State George Shultz

and Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, appeared at odds over the effectiveness of the contras and America's strategic alternatives.

Shultz said last Wednesday the contras were making significant gains in their war and an end to the funding would be a tragedy.

The next day he said by supporting the contras Washington could avoid direct military involvement.

Crowe said on Thursday the contras had made no progress in forcing political change and must improve their record or risk losing U.S. support. He said top U.S. military men opposed intervention.

Legislators and House and Senate aides see a shift in attitude about the contras on Capitol Hill. Some early aid supporters,

such as senator Larry Pressler, a conservative Republican from South Dakota, have begun to express doubts because of a seeming lack of success on the military or political fronts.

"Are we backing the right team?" he demanded at a congressional hearing where Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams said the programme was vital "to defeat Soviet-backed subversion and militarisation in Nicaragua."

Internal divisions have not helped the contra cause.

Arturo Cruz, one of three leaders of the rebel United Nicaraguan Opposition, has said he may quit because of constant bickering over tactics.

Of all the contra leaders, Cruz is the most respected in Washington.

Papandreou defies party and unions to pursue austerity policy

By Katerina Syrimi

Reuter

ATHENS — A pledge by Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou to defy a wave of protest strikes and complete a tough austerity drive highlights his swing to a more conservative economic policy, diplomats say.

But Papandreou, who won a second term in June 1985 on the slogan "for even better days," faces an uphill task.

A virtual wage freeze imposed by the two-year austerity programme in October 1985 has provoked an outcry from trade unions which accuse him of betraying working people by cutting their real incomes while allowing prices to rise.

Papandreou has also been attacked by the left wing of his Pasok party, which swept to power in 1981 on high public-spending programme as Greece's first Socialist government.

On the other hand Papandreou, a trained economist, has won praise from Greek industrialists for his efforts which they see as the only way to cut Greece's high inflation and foreign debts of about \$16 billion.

Popular discontent with austerity came to a head last Thursday when more than a million Greeks, demanding an end to the wage freeze, staged a 24-hour strike.

But despite three previous general strikes and heavy losses in Papandreou in local elections last year, the government has refused to change its economic course.

Economy Minister Kostas Simitis has even hinted that belt-tightening may extend into next year beyond the official completion of the programme at the end of 1987.

"The problems won't disappear as if by magic next year and our policy in 1988 will have to face them," he said. "The more efforts we make in 1987, the more options we will have in 1988."

The opposition conservative party, New Democracy, has called for general elections but Papandreou said on Friday his government would run its full course until June 1989.

Economists say the austerity programme has hit wage earners

hardest, with their real average incomes shrinking by about seven per cent in 1986 and expected to drop by a further six per cent this year.

An added burden is value added tax, introduced last month, which is likely to push up prices by up to five per cent, the economists said.

Papandreou removed three top left-wingers from his cabinet in a reshuffle last week, a move seen by Western diplomats as a signal of his determination to press on with the austerity policy of which they had been critical.

Since his re-election, Papandreou has abandoned pledges to remove Greece from the NATO alliance and the European Community, which last month approved the second half of a major loan to Greece of nearly \$2 billion.

The government says the austerity measures, which devalued the drachma by 15 per cent and restricted imports, have been successful so far.

Official figures show inflation dropped to 16.9 per cent last year from 25 per cent in 1985, while the current account deficit fell to \$1.8 billion from a record \$3.3 billion.

Diplomats however, estimate last year's inflation rate at more than 25 per cent and say lower oil prices and international interest rates contributed to the current account deficit fall.

This year, Papandreou hopes to reduce the current account shortfall to \$1.25 billion and cut inflation to around 10 per cent.

According to economy ministry figures, Greek exports rose slightly in the first 11 months of last year to \$4.9 billion from \$4.1 billion in the same period in 1985. Imports fell to \$10.2 billion from \$11.4 billion.

Greek industrialists have called for even more action to tackle the structural weakness of the economy and encourage investment.

"The government is right to continue with austerity but it's not enough to get us out of the deadlock," a source at the Athens chamber of commerce and industry told Reuters.

"To tackle inflation in the right way you have to cut the public sector deficits and this hasn't been done yet."

E. German leader grooms young successor

By Mark Heinrich

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Erich Honecker, the strong-willed and pragmatic leader of Communist East Germany, appears to be grooming a successor young enough to be his son.

West German experts say Honecker, 74, is preparing Egon Krenz, 49, to head a new East Berlin leadership that will eventually replace the now-elderly generation in power for much of the state's 37-year existence.

While details of his personal background and life are scant, Krenz cuts an athletic, outgoing image unusual in the stiff, conformist world of Communist politics.

He is known to jog and water ski to stay in shape. Photographs in a 1984 profile of Krenz in West Germany's Stern magazine showed him in the blue uniform of the Free German Youth, the state organisation he led for nine years.

In 1983 Krenz invited West German avant-garde rock star Udo Lindenberg to lunch in East Berlin, and a widely distributed photograph showed them clinking glasses of milk.

Karsten Voigt, a West German Social Democrat who got to know Krenz through bilateral contacts and a 1974 vacation in the Soviet Crimea, called the Honecker protégé "an easygoing sort."

"He's very self-assured, smooth, and attentive conversationalist," Voigt told the Associated Press.

If he succeeds Honecker, Krenz could be expected to continue firm loyalty to the Kremlin coupled with efforts to improve economic and cultural ties with West Germany, according to experts interviewed by the AP.

Honecker, who came to power in 1971, has won Moscow's admiration for developing one of the Communist world's most advanced, stable economies and ensuring a secure border with West Germany.

East Germany is the Soviet's most important East European ally for economic and strategic reasons. In East Germany, the Warsaw pact's westernmost state, an estimated 960,000 alliance troops face 990,000 NATO forces in neighbouring West Germany.

With an area of 108,333 square kilometres, East Germany is less than half the size of West Germany and its population of about 17 million is dwarfed by the 61 million West Germans next door.

Using authoritarian methods to

ensure domestic stability, Honecker has gained room to apply homegrown pragmatism in inter-German relations. West Germans now have little difficulty visiting family and friends in East Germany.

The question of Honecker's successor now looms on the horizon.

Last April at the nation's Communist Party congress, Honecker elevated Krenz and three comrades in their mid-50s to the elite ruling politburo, where officials in their 70s have dominated in recent years.

"The gradual removal of rule by old men in the GDR (East Germany) isn't precisely comparable to what's going on in Moscow, since Honecker, unlike Gorbachev, doesn't need to solidify his power any more," said Genscher Buch, a West Berlin-based authority on East Germany.

"But Honecker recognises the need for a gradual generational transition within the politburo now. This process should be largely completed by the next party congress in 1991," said Buch in a recent interview with AP.

Buch is an official with the All-German Institute, an arm of the West German ministry that handles many official contacts with East Germany. He spoke to AP on condition his views were presented as his own, not the ministry's.

Two years before the politburo appointment, Honecker had given Krenz the chairmanship of the powerful party committees overseeing national security and the army, youth affairs, and sport.

Those positions traditionally have signified the No. 2 position in East Germany's political hierarchy.

"Honecker still looks very healthy and vital, and he is not expected to step down voluntarily," said Buch. "But all indications are he favours Krenz to take over from him."

Honecker rose to the pinnacle of the East German state partly through his central committee role in the 1960s supervising construction of the Berlin wall.

He replaced Walter Ulbricht as Communist leader in 1971 when Ulbricht angered Moscow by re-signing the four-power agreement on Berlin and other moves toward East-West détente.

Krenz has climbed the ladder through impeccable career moves and personal talents unusual in a

naturally conformist system, according to another West German expert.

"Like Honecker, Krenz spent nine years as chairman of the Free German Youth, the storehouse of talent ticketed for the party's highest levels," said Karl-Wilhelm Fricke, the author of four books on East German politics and a commentator on inter-German relations.

The Free German Youth is the state "mass organisation" that shapes the leisure and culture activities of the young and plays a strong role in their political education. Krenz spent more than 20 years in various Free German Youth posts.

"Krenz also has great organising and rhetorical gifts. He can speak English and Russian, and give a speech without a text. He's quite a flexible man," said Fricke.

A nationalist's legacy

By Anthony Hyman

Mossadegh: a political biography

By Farhad Diba. Croom Helm, London 1986.

THE high reputation and lasting popularity of Mossadegh among Iranians is well known to all who have visited Iran. It survived — perhaps thrived on — his disgrace in 1953 at the hands of the young shah, and the long years in which the aged Mossadegh became a "non-person" as far as the officially controlled media were concerned.

This is the first biography to appear in English of the remarkable prime minister who challenged Britain's sole monopoly in Iran in 1951 by nationalising the country's main source of wealth. A nationalist of aristocratic background, his long political career is described with care and obvious affection, reflecting the deep emotions still stirred in Iranian nationalist circles by this enigmatic man. (As soon as censorship was relaxed with the downfall of the shah in 1979, a stream of material about Mossadegh poured from the Persian presses.)

There is a moving description of the toppled prime minister's dignified behaviour during the organised coup of August 1953, when his opulent house was sacked by the mob. One has to sympathise with the fallen hero during his solitary confinement and strict house arrest, which lasted until his death in 1967. Old and frail as he was, he remained fearless by the shah's regime.

As to the legacy of Mossadegh, even such an admirer as Farhad Diba admits that it was "fragmented." It is, of course, true that a number of his younger supporters continued to espouse many of the same ideas, in the banned parties of the National

Front and Freedom Movement. Most of the liberals and moderate nationalists who re-surfaced into national politics during the 1978-79 revolution had been political disciples of Mossadegh, among them Dr. Mehdi Bazargan, Karim Sanjabi and Shapour Bakhtiari.

The author does not dwell on the reasons why these and other secular political leaders were swept aside by the tide of the Islamic revolution and the mass emotions generated by the Ayatollah Khomeini. The author laments the failure in adhering to Mossadegh's principles, "and in losing the battle to the fundamentalist clergy, they have proved that Mossadegh's legacy will remain with Iranians but that it will need another personality of his stature to attempt the reconstruction of the ideal." Like many other writers, he compares Mossadegh to Mahatma Gandhi, and evidently believes there were many parallels. He nowhere seems to appreciate the essential difference between Gandhi's tremendous moral authority, in spite of holding no official position, and Mossadegh's political powerbase as a strongly-placed prime minister with popular "but, as it proved, all too flicker" support. The nationalism Mossadegh aroused in Iran, together with the nature of his "political charisma" are studied only briefly.

This biography is too respectful to examine critically the extent to which the idealistic Mossadegh was a pragmatic populist when it suited him, or to look at all closely at the alliance of convenience between the principled, constitutional prime minister and the rabble-rousing Ayatollah Abol Qasem Kashani. What it does certainly reveal is the enduring attraction of Mossadegh for liberals and secular-minded Iranians as a symbol of their political ideas.

International Red Cross works to bind up the world's wounds

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — His name is Paul, he's from the Swiss canton of Aargau, and his problem is five missing cans of vegetable oil.

What's a young Swiss doing in the hinterland of Ethiopia's Eritrea region, worrying about vegetable oil? Like many of his 500 counterparts around the world, Paul is part of a lifeline, in this case to starving Ethiopians. Strict accountability for food supplies is crucial.

The lifeline is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Ethiopia has been one of its costliest operations. Among some 80 foreign relief groups represented in Ethiopia, only the ICRC has concentrated on the civil-war zones of Tigray and Eritrea.

'Like yodeling club'

Private and composed solely of Swiss citizens, under Swiss law the ICRC is, as its director general says, "an association just like any bowling or yodeling club."

Yet, by solemn agreement, 164 sovereign states enable it to aid hundreds of thousands of people around the world, some in deadly danger, writes Peter T. White in the November 1986, National Geographic. They are victims in one way or another of the dozens of armed conflicts and upheavals around the globe.

The work can be miserable and dangerous. Last year the ICRC

visited 60,000 prisoners in 35 countries. Since World War II, some 20 delegates have been killed while on duty.

To interview prisoners of war in the Western Saharan conflict that pits Morocco against the Polisario Front, ICRC delegates undertook a round trip by Land-Rover through more than 600 miles of roadless desert in 110-degree heat.

In anarchic Lebanon, delegates have learned the code of carnage, spoken on the ICRC radio frequency. "When you see weapons, you say 'toys,'" explains a delegate. "Tanks are 'frogs.' Fighting is 'playing.' ... And you don't say dead bodies, you say 'chocolates'."

Eruption of war between Mali and Burkina Faso, or a bloody uprising in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, means that virtually overnight, delegates will be on the scene, repatriating prisoners and evacuating wounded. "They just unfurl the flag and barge right into no-man's-land," says National Geographic photographer Steve Raymer.

Americans, too, have benefited from the ICRC. When the 39 hostages from hijacked TWA flight 847 were released in Beirut, for example, they left in white ICRC cars with big Red Cross markings.

1,000 on staff

Financed primarily by voluntary contributions from govern-

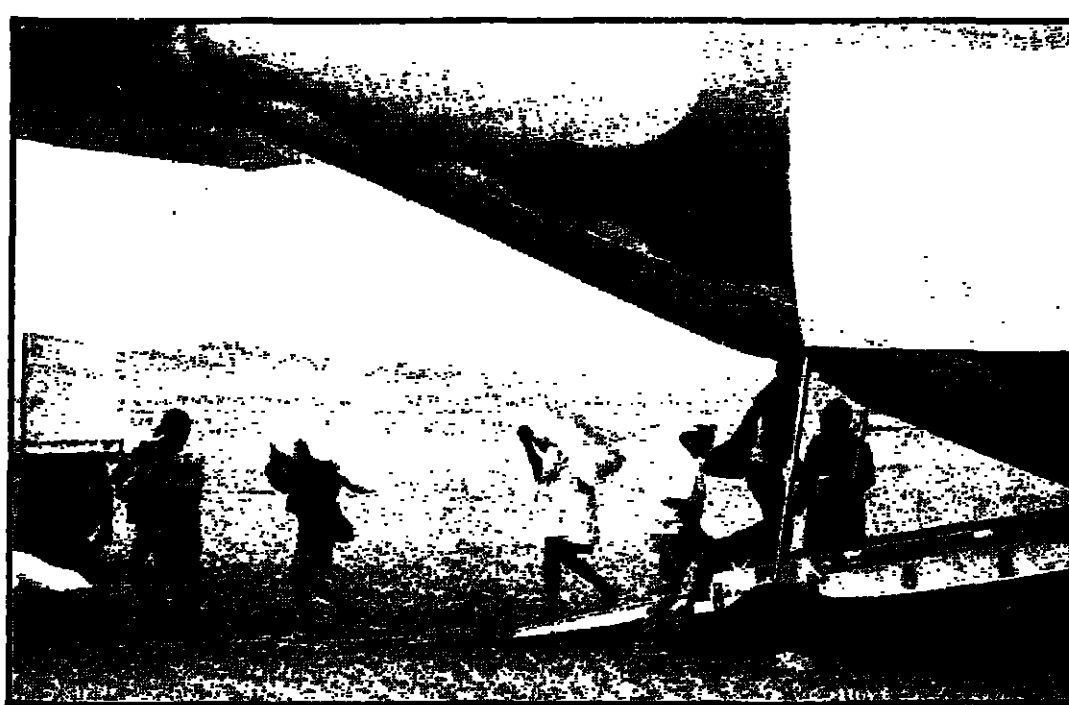
ments, the ICRC operates quietly to protect victims of man-made disaster at any time, anywhere — in war, civil war, and politically induced disturbances. Its staff — 500 in its Geneva headquarters and 500 in the field — is all Swiss to maintain neutrality.

"What's important for the Israelis, for example, is to be certain that no Arabs or friends of the Arab control or influence the committee," explains the director general. "And what's important for the Arabs is that neither the Israelis nor their friends control or influence it." That the country in charge happens to be Switzerland is an accident of history. "We could have been from Sweden, or Liechtenstein," he says.

The theory that sustains the ICRC's work is rooted in the text of the Geneva Conventions of 1949: In armed conflict, soldiers have the right to kill opposing soldiers. But "persons taking no active part in the hostilities shall in all circumstances be treated humanely."

In this spirit, the ICRC will ask both sides to let it visit their prisoners in order to learn how they are being treated. And civilians may ask the ICRC for medical help and for food for children and pregnant women, all of which both sides should let pass freely. The ICRC is pledged to be absolutely neutral and impartial, taking no part in ideological or political controversies.

Bernhard, a delegate from the



Grain for hungry Ethiopians is unloaded from a Red Cross transport plane. Crushing needs of the starving in Ethiopia accounted for the lion's share of 132,000 tonnes of food sent to Africa last year by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The

Geneva-based, all-Swiss ICRC, operating in strict neutrality, aids hundreds of thousands of the world's needy. Its diverse work, carried on by a staff of 1,000, is often dangerous.

canton of Valais, meets a prisoner in El Salvador who bears lesions, allegedly from electric shocks. In response, an ICRC doctor will examine the prisoner, and if the injuries are confirmed, the ICRC may send a report of bad treatment to Salvadoran authorities, strongly worded but strictly confidential. Such quiet remonstrances often bring good results, White writes.

The ICRC has expanded greatly in the past two decades, with major operations in Biafra in 1968, Bangladesh in 1971, and Kampuchea (Cambodia) in 1979,

and a gigantic operation along the Thai-Kampuchean border that peaked in 1980.

Failure in Vietnam

Yet there have been notable failures. During the Vietnam War, for example, the ICRC was never allowed to visit any U.S. servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam.

The ICRC constantly negotiates for access to political detainees arrested in situations of international tension not covered by international agreement. Currently it is negotiating for access

in Turkey, Guatemala, and Sri Lanka, and has striven to help the families of people detained under emergency laws in South Africa.

The committee resulted from the vision of Swiss businessman Henry Dunant, who in 1859 saw suffering men wounded in a battle between Austrian and allied French and Sardinian troops. Shocked, he wrote a memoir that inspired creation of the ICRC and of national Red Cross societies worldwide. The reverse of the Swiss flag, a red cross on a white background, became the group's lasting symbol.

Much abused Leonardo masterpiece closed to the public

By Daniel Liefgreen

Reuters

MILAN — Napoleon's troops threw stones at it, overzealous restorers crudely repaired it, World War II allied bombers left it surrounded by rubble. Leonardo da Vinci's fresco, the Last Supper, has been dubbed the world's most abused masterpiece.

Now Italian cultural officials say the 15th-century fresco must be closed indefinitely to the public in order to complete its latest restoration, the fourth this century.

The closure is expected sometime this month, after which visitors will no longer be allowed inside the former monastic refectory in Milan's Santa Maria Delle Grazie church to see what art historian Ernst Gombrich called "one of the great miracles wrought by human genius."

Further studies are needed of the severe damage caused by nearby traffic, temperature changes inside the church and thick layers of dust. Officials believe these cannot be carried out amidst the daily crush of staring tourists.

"One doesn't like to close off the public, but if we want to protect the original work we have to take the decision," Rosalba Tardito, Milan's cultural superintendent, told Reuters in an interview.

"Unlike a Raphael or a Caravaggio, we can't bring it (the Last Supper) into a laboratory to restore it," she said.

The closure decision has not been popular. "I'll be out of work," snapped a church worker to a journalist during a recent visit to the site. Milan's new mayor, Paolo Pillitteri, backed by hotel owners, said the move

would damage the city's tourism.

The Milan branch of the Christian Democratic Party has proposed installation of a closed circuit television system during the restoration so visitors can see the 30-foot wide fresco painted by da Vinci between 1495 and 1497.

Pinin Brambilla Barcillon is the director of the current restoration, which began in 1976.

Standing on the scaffolding under the fresco, she spends her days meticulously removing five centuries of grime and paint staining da Vinci's work.

From a distance, the left side of the fresco seemed to be covered in shadows. Up close, the benefits of Barcillon's labour could be seen clearly. Orange slices and pepper plates, once obscured on the table, now seemed lifelike.

"The faces (of the apostles) have emotions now, there's spirituality at the dinner table," Bar-

cillon said. "Look at Mathew's mouth, it's open and moving now."

Working under the public gaze clearly disturbed Barcillon. In mid-afternoon the dark, dank refectory was jammed with camera-toting tourists, many of whom ignored signs banning flash pictures.

Tourists pestered her constantly, Barcillon said. "They usually ask me to get out of the way so they can take their pictures."

Among her tools are two big microscopes resembling large dental X-ray machines that magnify paint fragments 40 times. It takes about a week to restore an area the size of a postage stamp.

"It's very difficult, exhausting work. Some days I work eight hours, some days I just can't work at all because I have to take breaks," Barcillon told Reuters. The unusual technique used by

da Vinci in the fresco, which he painted for Duke Ludovico Sforza of Milan, then one of Europe's most powerful rulers, has contributed to the deterioration.

At the time, most frescoes were painted quickly and directly on wet plaster. But da Vinci used a white primer so he could paint slowly. By 1517, only 20 years after it was completed, the paint had begun to flake.

In addition, temperature changes between the frescoed wall and the room behind it occasionally trigger minor tremors that crack the paint. Earlier tests have shown these changes occur when large groups of tourists enter and leave the refectory.

Barcillon wiped the floor of the scaffolding with her finger, which instantly became caked with dust. "This is a major problem that has to be resolved, and it's not possible with people around. In order

to refurbish your house, you have to remove the furniture."

She sighed when asked when her restoration would be finished. "I'm at the halfway point, and it's taken me more than five years. I don't need a deadline. It's a big enough responsibility, especially when everybody is constantly watching you."

The care taken by modern restorers is in sharp contrast to the fresco's abuse in the past. In 1796 Napoleon's troops, occupying Milan, used the refectory as an armory and stable. They threw stones at da Vinci's apostles and climbed ladders to scratch out their eyes.

Earlier in the 18th century, in one of the nine or 10 restorations the fresco has undergone in its history, paint was overlaid on the original so crudely that it had later to be removed with a scalpel.

Blood test to detect tumours

By Sally Squires

WASHINGTON — Researchers at the Harvard Medical School reported new details on their work with a blood test that is able to detect the growth of a cancer in the body and appears to help researchers determine which tumours are likely to spread.

Dr. Eric T. Fossel and Dr. Jan McDonagh said the test, which measures special fats in the blood, was able to accurately detect the presence of "all types of tumours" from breast cancer to colon cancer.

The researchers also used the test to follow the progress of two leukemia patients as they underwent chemotherapy. Both patients went into remission — which the test documented. Later the test indicated that one patient relapsed before clinical signs were apparent.

Fossel and McDonagh first reported their findings in the Nov. 26 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. So far, some 331 patients have been screened

with the new blood test.

Many researchers have been searching for blood test to detect cancer early, usually by looking for evidence of cancer cells in the blood or other factors that would indicate a tumour is present somewhere in the body.

This new test is unique in its ability to detect changes in the fatty content in a person's blood that indicates something is rapidly growing in the patient. But it cannot determine the type of cancer present, nor can it differentiate between the blood of cancer patients and that of pregnant women or men with enlarged prostate glands.

"We feel that what we are seeing is a response of the body to rapidly dividing cells," Fossel said.

The test uses a technique called nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to examine changes in blood fats, known as oncolipids. NMR measures signals, known as resonances, that arise from the fat molecules in the blood. Fossel and McDonagh have shown that

the blood fats in people with cancer produce sharp, peaked resonances, unlike people without cancer. They believe that these changes are due to alteration in fats known as triglycerides. Chemical molecules on these fats move faster in people with cancer and are more disordered.

"I will take another two years of testing," Fossel said, before researchers know if the test can be implemented as a standard part of cancer monitoring. The NMR machines cost about \$500,000 each, but they have the capability of performing "hundreds of tests a day" at a cost of about \$50 a test.

The hope is that the test will not only be able to buy time for cancer patients by detecting malignancies early, but that it will also be useful in determining when a cancer patient is relapsing. That, in turn, would give doctors a chance to try other more aggressive treatments before the tumour spreads — Washington Post.

Gay soldiers set up organisation in Dutch forces

By Martin Nesirky

Reuters

THE HAGUE — Homosexuals are setting up their own organisation in the Dutch armed forces and even the defence ministry thinks it is a good idea.

Two majors, an infantry captain and a non-commissioned officer are behind the scheme to establish a foundation called "homosexuality and the armed forces," to promote the interests of "gay" and lesbian military personnel.

Many countries consider homosexuality incompatible with military service because of the possibility of blackmail, and some Western forces are exempt from laws which allow homosexual acts.

But since 1974, the Dutch military has not rejected conscripts on the grounds of homosexuality as part of a drive to ensure the 71,400-member armed forces reflect civilian soci-

ety. The main Dutch gay organisation estimates there are between 500,000 and one million homosexuals in a population of 14.5 million people.

Surprisingly, news of the foundation came to light in the official military newspaper, *De fensiekrant*, which published a detailed article about the group, printed a photograph of the gay majors and gave the names and addresses of the main organisers.

"A working group for gay soldiers was started about 10 years ago by a draft soldier. It meant well and it was sincere, but a bit chaotic because the membership was constantly changing as conscripts came and went," explained Major Abel van Weerd, chairman of the new foundation.

Setting up a foundation will mean the group is registered, recognised in law and clearly identifiable, making access to officialdom easier.

"We have a small group of professional soldiers and have

better access to the top ranks and the ministry," he told Reuters.

He has no idea how many people will join, but notes a similar police organisation has some 55 members. About five interested military staff have called him since the article appeared in the in-house weekly last week.

"If the military does mirror society then five to 10 per cent of the troops could be gay," he said. That works out at 3,750 to 7,140.

Van Weerd, an economist, said the foundation would be independent, but would welcome defence ministry recognition. Lawyers expect papers setting up the foundation to be ready in two weeks.

Ministry spokesman Cent van Vliet said: "It is a good thing that the subject is breaking out into the open." He said a foundation would be easier to deal with than a semi-anonymous working group.

Defence State Secretary Jan van Houwelingen was ready in

Oman fights to keep its own identity in Gulf

By Stephen Jukes

Reuters

MUSCAT — A small army of Indian labourers is busy polishing the brass railings. The white-washed government buildings shimmer in the midday heat and sprinklers play over the manicured lawns outside the sultan's palace.

This is Oman's picture-book capital Muscat, the most obvious showpiece of a modern Gulf state fighting to maintain its own identity.

A country which barely 15 years ago would not allow any of its 1.5 million people to wear spectacles is learning to cope with progress ushered in by oil wealth and its trappings — from the ubiquitous Toyota pick-up to the home video.

It has also been learning the painful realities of recession which accompanied the rapid fall in oil prices last year.

"Oil prices are still low and 1987 will be a lean year," said one Western diplomat. "But the atmosphere is fairly relaxed. There is no sense of crisis."

Development came late to Oman, starting in 1970 when Sultan Qaboos Bin Said overthrew his father who had resisted change in the second-largest nation on the Arabian peninsula. Qaboos lifted the ban on wearing spectacles, which his father had considered too Western, and ended prohibitions on smoking and singing.

Oman was also late becoming an oil exporter, not producing its first crude until 1967.

Now exporting around 468,000 barrels a day, Oman resisted the temptation to throw in its lot with the big oil producers.

Although Oman generally displays solidarity with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), it is not a member.

Sultan Qaboos underlined his political independence by not attending the fifth Islamic summit held last month in Kuwait.

The 46-year-old British-educated sultan sent his personal representative. Government officials say it is not his habit to attend conferences which are unlikely to yield results.

He was the only leader absent from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, which links Oman and Kuwait in a political and economic union along with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The sultan's strong leadership and husbanding of modest oil wealth and foreign borrowing have transformed the country —

which juts out into the Strait of Hormuz and looks across to Iran's naval base of Bandar Abbas.

The entrance to the strategic Gulf made it inevitable that Oman's early history should be that of a seafaring nation.

But in recent years the waterway has been dragged into the bitter Gulf war as Iran and Iraq carry out regular missile and helicopter attacks on oil tankers and merchant ships.

Oman has been thrust into role of guardian of the straits.

Its navy, including British-built gunboats, also enforces a scheme to avoid collisions in the 23-mile bottleneck, still a key artery for oil exports to the West.

This year some 521 million rials (\$1.4 billion) is earmarked for defence, 32 per cent of total budget outlay.

Joint manoeuvres late last year with British forces in "Operation Swift Sword" testify to the close links with Western powers such as Britain, the United States and France — which also have warships patrolling the Gulf.

Just a few miles from Muscat, a bustling financial centre, Ruwi, has been created on a former desert airstrip.

The fertile Batinah coastal strip stretching north towards the UAE is at first lined with garages selling both high performance cars and family saloons. But the huge neon signs of the Toyota dealers quickly give way to ramshackle auto repair shops.

Oman's third five-year plan begun in 1986 aims at developing areas away from the capital, but austerity measures have meant cuts. Economists say pruning will not alter the objectives — which include fostering the private sector — but will slow development in the rest of the country.

The 1986 budget deficit was more than three times the planned level and hit 700 million rials (\$1.8 billion).

Some Omanis argue privately that harsher times are no bad thing, enforcing careful use of oil revenues and heading off a trend towards consumerism.

About 160 miles north of Muscat, the coastal town of Sohar is Oman's third largest settlement with 45,000 inhabitants.

The town, which boasts a meticulously-renovated 13th-century fort, is a growing centre for fishing and agriculture, once just subsistence industries.

The highway to Sohar sweeps past a huge dairy and vegetable farm, which has transformed the plain into 400 hectares of irrigated green.

New traces of Assyrian civilisation found

By Subhy Haddad

Reuters

MOSUL, Iraq — Recent archaeological finds in northern Iraq may be the first clue that some Assyrians were thriving long after their powerful empire was pulverised by a combined army of Babylonians and Medes in 615 B.C.

A joint team from Edinburgh University and the British Museum has unearthed Assyrian artifacts dating to the third century B.C., which the experts say cast doubt on the theory that the Assyrians had by then disappeared.

Scottish archaeologist Edgar Pezzenburg, who has led the excavation at Eski Mosul, 600 kilometres north of Baghdad, is convinced that the Assyrian empire did not just vanish.

The archaeologists have been excavating for two seasons at Kharabeh Shattani, one of 15 tells — artificial mounds formed by the accumulated remains of ancient civilisations — at Eski Mosul.

What happened to the hundreds of thousands of Assyrians

when their Ashur Nineveh and main cities Ashur and Nimrud collapsed in flames to invaders from Persia and southern Iraq has remained a mystery.

The general assumption is that most of the population was killed and the few who managed to escape sought refuge in the mountains where they dispersed among the local peoples.

But the new evidence shows that rather than dispersing, surviving Assyrians formed small societies some distance away from their main cities.

Pezzenburg told Reuters that metal works, pottery and the designs of buildings found at Kharabeh confirmed that at least some of the Assyrians stayed. At its height the Assyrian empire spread into Syria, Palestine, Anatolia, Persia and even Egypt.

But its population was too small to consolidate its hold over an expanded kingdom, making it vulnerable to the attack which led to its destruction.

The archaeologists at Kharabeh Shattani had been contributing to an international salvage operation to rescue 200

tells threatened with flooding. Pezzenburg said he could find no hint as to the fate of the Assyrian inhabitants of Kharabeh Shattani because "the site was very small in comparison to Assyrian cities and the people might have possibly moved to other places."

But the new finds point to a heavy Assyrian presence in the area and might spur scholars to embark on a fresh study of the Assyrian empire, Pezzenburg said.

"... I'm sure the new discoveries at Kharabeh will arouse Assyriologists' interest in this regrettably neglected phase of Assyrian history," he said.

Although more than two millennia have passed since the fall of the Assyrian empire, there is a sect in Iraq today known as Ashuri, after the Assyrian religious capital of Ashur, whose members claim descent from the bygone civilisation.

These people, of tough solid stock — main characteristics of the ancient Assyrians — still give their children Assyrian names such as Sargon, Sennacherib, Ashur, Naram and Nimur.

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Connors pulls up lame, forfeits tourney to Edberg

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg won his second U.S. Indoor Tennis Championship in the past three years when a knee injury forced no. 2-seed Jimmy Connors to retire in the second set.

Connors, who had lost the first set 3-6, fell to the hard-court surface at the Racquet Club of Memphis after hitting a weak backhand overhead to Edberg in the third game of the second set Sunday.

While Connors lay on the court holding his right knee, Edberg easily returned the ball into the open court to break Connors' serve and take a 2-1 lead.

Connors, who now has lost seven straight finals and has not won since 1984, was assisted off the court and attended to during the change over.

After being assessed one penalty point for delay, Connors retired from the match, making Edberg, the 1987 Australian Open champion and the world's no. 2 player, a 6-3, 2-1, winner.

"I really don't remember what happened," Connors said later. "After I hit the shot, I came down and I was leaning back and I tried to go forward and then I can't remember."

Connors, who is ranked eighth in the world and had won seven U.S. indoor titles, said he quickly knew he would be unable to continue the match.

Todd Snyder, a trainer with the Association of Tennis Professionals, said Connors would undergo precautionary x-rays to ensure there was no fracture.

Snyder said the injury could keep Connors sidelined for 10 to 21 days.

"He sprained one of the main ligaments that keeps the knee from collapsing. There is no need for immediate surgery," Snyder said.

The injury came after a short rally. Connors had just failed to register a winner on a previous overhead which Edberg had lobbed to the mid-court area. Connors appeared set to deliver a cross-court winner, but instead he hit a weak overhead and crumpled to the court.

Both men held serve through the first seven games of the open-



Stefan Edberg... brings Connors to his knees

ing set before Edberg took Connors to deuce in game eight. Edberg then passed Connors on the forehead side to reach break point.

Connors fell behind 3-5 when he was unable to reach an Edberg forehand that hit the tape and fell over. Edberg took the set by winning the ninth game at love when Connors netted a backhand from the base line.

Edberg's winner's share was \$45,000, while Connors received \$22,500.

Chess grandmasters' association to launch World Cup series

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — A new association of chess grandmasters will introduce a World Cup competition and has forced FIDE, the world chess federation, to reschedule its world championship cycle, officials said.

The grandmasters' association, which was founded Sunday, plans to launch a World Cup series of six tournaments in 1988 and 1989 and FIDE, facing increasing pressure from the top players, agreed to extend its world championship cycle from two to three years because of it, FIDE President Florencio Campomanes said.

Observers said the move was a success for the grandmasters' association, led by Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov, and showed the potential power of top players in running chess. Kasparov and Campomanes have been embroiled in a sometimes bitter dispute since 1985.

"It is a big success which shows the power and independence of the players. They will be able to work more professionally now," said one official who attended the meeting but asked to remain anonymous.

Although Campomanes said

the organization of a World Cup will be "a great step in the promotion of chess," he wrote to Kasparov that it will result in a loss of finances for FIDE.

"Although this will result in the loss of income, we feel the sacrifice is justifiable for the sake of world chess," he wrote.

Kasparov and the other leading players founded the grandmasters' association to increase their say in the running of chess, but were offered only a consultative role by FIDE Sunday, the official said.

One official said however "the grandmasters want a decisive role," in the management of their sport. "They will go their own way." He added FIDE could do little but accommodate their wishes if the players remained united.

Few details of the founding charter of the grandmasters' association were made public Sunday, but spokeswoman Iliana Zonedda said that all grandmasters would be asked to join the organization.

Kasparov's manager Andrew Page has said in the past that the World Cup would bring together the top 24 players, who would

each play four of the six tournaments. The 16-player events would take place on as many different continents as possible.

Sources have said that the World Cup prize money would consist of some \$400,000 on top of the prize money for each of the individual tournaments. In comparison, Kasparov only got \$5,000 for winning the two-week Othello Tournament in Brussels in December.

With the new association, Kasparov, 23, wants to make the game more popular, trying to attract spectators and the media and to boost earnings.

Some of the top grandmasters have had increasingly acrimonious relations with FIDE over the last years, arguing the organization was autocratically run by Campomanes, a Filipino. Campomanes was recently reelected by the FIDE member countries to another four-year term as president.

The board of the grandmasters' association consists of Soviets Kasparov and Anatoli Karpov, Briton John Nunn, U.S. player Yasser Seirawan, Hungarian Lajos Portisch, Yugoslav Ljubomir Ljubojevic and Jan Timman of The Netherlands.

Soccer administrators make complicated changes

By Robert Millward
Associated Press

LONDON — Former England soccer manager Ron Greenwood once said: "Soccer is a simple game. The hard part is making it look simple."

Some of Europe's soccer administrators seem to be having a hard time coping with the ups and downs of the game.

Authorities in England, Switzerland and Spain all have devised complicated new systems to determine either the title race or promotion and relegation issues in their respective countries.

These involve season-ending playoffs or carving up the leagues

into two or three sections. And the motives for the changes also differ.

While English officials have reacted to calls for pruning the First Division programme — each team plays 42 matches — the Spaniards want to do the opposite and fill out their season with revenue-earning matches.

The Swiss plan to reduce their 16-team First Division by four clubs, using complicated playoffs. Until this season in England, the top three teams from Division Two replaced the bottom three in Division One at the end of each league campaign.

Now, the promotion-relegation system is to change as the First Division is reduced to 20 teams

over the next two seasons, and even die-hard soccer fans are trying to get to understand the new format.

Three teams will still automatically go down from Division One at the end of the current season but only two will go up.

To make the new plan work, officials instead have devised a playoff series, whereby the team that finishes fourth from bottom plays off against the third, fourth and fifth-placed teams in the Second Division.

Football league spokesman Andy Williamson said the main motive for introducing the playoffs was to maintain the interest of a greater number of clubs and their supporters in the last few weeks of the campaign.

"In the closing stages of the season, the division polarises and

a great many clubs are playing matches which have very little bearing on the promotion and relegation issues," Williamson told the Associated Press.

"The playoffs may seem complicated, but they mean that more clubs will have something to play for."

The Swiss plan to cut its First Division from the present 16 teams to 12 sets up the possibility of six Division-One teams being relegated in one of Europe's most complicated soccer structures.

The bottom two clubs automatically will drop to Division Two, while the four clubs immediately above will fight over two Division-One places with four teams from the lower flight.

The Swiss Championship will be staged in two parts, along the neighbouring Austria.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pole conquers Nepal mountain

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Polish mountaineer Jerzy Kukuczka has climbed Annapurna I — his 13th conquest of a peak taller than 8,000 metres (26,240 feet). Nepal's Ministry of Tourism said Monday that Kukuczka, 38, reached the summit of the 8,091-metre (26,538-foot) Annapurna I, the world's ninth tallest mountain, on Feb. 3, accompanied by fellow Pole Artur Hajzer. 24. Kukuczka now needs to climb only the 8,046-metre (26,390-foot) Xixapangma in Tibet to complete his effort to climb all 14 of the world's peaks taller than 8,000 metres.

Platini escapes car crash injury

TURIN, Italy (R) — French World Cup star Michel Platini escaped unhurt when his car crashed as he was returning to his Turin home at the weekend, police said. Platini's car skidded on a wet road and hit a parked car late on Saturday night, they said. The Juventus player and his family were going home from a meal in a nearby restaurant. Platini's wife Christel and daughter Marine suffered slight injuries, but were treated in hospital and released the same night. His young son, Laurent, was unhurt.

Allen-Cooksey sets U.S. pentathlon mark

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — Tony Allen-Cooksey set an American mark while capturing his second straight national pentathlon title at the USA-TAC National Pentathlon Championships. Allen-Cooksey, representing the Athletics Forte of southern California, totalled 4,315 points Sunday night, breaking the mark of 4,119 points set in 1984 by Scott Daniels. The pentathlon consists of the 60-metre hurdles, long jump, shot put, high jump and 1,000 metre run. Rob Muzzo of George Mason University, the 1985 NCAA decathlon champion, was second with 4,090 points, while teammate Keith Young was third with 4,008.

Americans win bobsled races

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP) — American Matt Roy piloted a redesigned sled to victory in the World Cup two-man bobsled races at Mount Van Hoevenberg. Roy, who estimates he has driven his bobsled down Mount Van Hoevenberg more than 600 times during his seven years in bobsledding, won the same event one year ago. He posted the three fastest times of the four-heat event Sunday in piling up a comfortable winning margin of more than a second over the runnerup British sled driven by Mark Tout with David Armstrong on the brake.

E. Germans win biathlon relay

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP) — Frank-Peter Roetsch completed his domination of the World Cup Biathlon Championships by leading his East German team to a gold medal in the relay event. The East German relay team covered the 7.5-kilometre course in a combined time of 1 hour, 25 and 2.30 minutes, more than two minutes ahead of the second-place Soviet team. West Germany finished third. It was the third gold medal for the East German in the World Championships of the sport that combines elements of cross-country skiing and marksmanship. Roetsch also won gold medals in the 10 and 20 kilometre races held at Lake Placid's Mount Van Hoevenberg this weekend.

American-best time wins 200 metres

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — James Butler won the 200 metres at the Gator Open Indoor Track meet Sunday in an American-best time of 20.64. Butler's time is the third best ever and beat the previous American best of 20.84 set by Mel Lattany of Georgia in 1983. The meet in the Stephen C. O'Connell Centre served as the U.S. trials in the men's 200 and 400 metres for the IAAF World Indoor Championships scheduled March 6-8 in Indianapolis. Kirk Baptiste, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist at 200 metres, was timed in 20.86 Sunday to join Butler on the U.S. team. University of Florida sophomore Dennis Mitchell, the only collegian in the field, set a collegiate indoor record with his third place clocking of 21.03.

Britain's Phillips tours Jordan's equestrian facilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Captain Mark Phillips, United Kingdom Olympic rider and international expert on equestrian sports, is visiting Jordan this week upon the invitation of Her Majesty Queen Noor to help assess efforts underway to establish a national equestrian society. During his stay, Capt. Phillips will visit various equestrian facilities in Jordan and meet those interested in this developing sport.

A demonstration of show jumping was held Monday afternoon at the Arabian Horse Club. Attending the event were Her Majesty Queen Noor, Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, who, with Capt. Phillips, watched 12 local riders as they put their horses through paces.

Taking part in the cool bright afternoon sunshine were Ra'ad Nasser, His Royal Highness Prince Ali Al Hussein, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Sherif Saifi, Sandra Saifi, Sara Kabarti, Chris Wegelous, Steve Jahshan, Hana Jahshan, Lubna Ezzedin, Hani Bisharat, and Zaid Bitar.

Elliott wins Daytona 500 car race

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Bill Elliott won his second Daytona 500 as defending champion Geoff Bodine, losing a high-stakes gamble, ran out of gas three laps from the end at Daytona International Speedway.

Elliott, the 1985 winner, out-muscled the fastest field in Daytona history most of the day Sunday. But he had to watch and wait in the last 13 laps as Bodine took a calculated risk by staying on the racetrack, hoping to squeeze 45 laps of racing out of a nearly-empty gas tank.

Bodine got in 42 laps and was about 20 seconds in the lead on the 2.5-mile (4-kilometre) track when his Chevrolet sputtered and quit. The engine stopped just after he had passed the pit entrance, forcing him to roll slowly around the track while Elliott's Ford Thunderbird and the rest of the lead cars roared past.

Elliott then held off Benny Parsons for the victory.

The winner crossed the finish line just six-tenths of a second ahead of Parsons. Seven-time Daytona 500 winner Richard Petty came in third, followed by Buddy Baker, Dale Earnhardt, Bobby Allison, Ken Schrader and Darrell Waltrip. Elliott averaged 176.263 mph (283 kph) — the second-fastest Daytona race — and won a NASCAR record \$204,150. Bodine's \$192,715 was the old mark.

Maree wins mile with sub-four-minute race

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — South African-born Sydney Maree ran his first sub-four-minute mile of the season Sunday afternoon, winning the feature event at the Fairfax Invitational Indoor Athletics Meeting in three minutes, 58.11 seconds.

The time wasn't as fast as some of Maree's other miles — he ran 3:52.40 in 1985 — but the pleasure was almost the same. Many of the runners in the field had beaten Maree, an American citizen since 1984, Friday night in another Grand Prix meeting in Hamilton, Ontario.

So Maree went out hard and assumed command from pacesetter Charlie Freda with about 1,000 metres to go and never relinquished the lead despite numerous challenges. He eventually won by about a metre over Kenya's Kip Cheruiyot, who was timed in 3:58.24.

Canadian Dave Campbell finished third in 3:58.46 and New

Zealand's John Walker took fourth in 3:58.57 in the closely contested race.

A world indoor best was set in another mile event — the infrequently contested women's one-mile walk. Canadian Ann Peel set a torrid pace and wound up with the fastest time ever in the event at 6:35.47.

The previous best for the event, for which there is no recognised world record, was 6:43.39 by Italy's Giuliana Sale.

The American record also fell in the event. Maryanne Torellas, who Saturday night had set a world indoor best of 6:01.16 in beating Peel in the 1,500-metre walk at East Rutherford, N.J., lowered the U.S. standard to 6:40.52 for the mile walk as she finished second.

The previous American record was 6:50.0 by Teresa Vaill earlier this month.

Garrison beats Hanika for California victory

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Zina Garrison of the United States won the \$150,000 California women's tennis tournament with a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, victory over Sylvia Hanika of West Germany.

The two-hour, six-minute match was clearly marked by Garrison's court speed and by Hanika's powerful serve and determination.

Garrison, seeded third, used her top-spin lob effectively in the first set, winning it on a single break in the 12th game.

But the unseeded West German, ranked fifth in the world in 1983 but 43rd now, came back to win the second set from the ninth-ranked American on a forehand volley.

In the third set each player was broken. A backhand by Hanika, which fell long, gave Garrison another break for a 5-3 lead and

eventually the match.

Hanika protested the call, and played with little spirit for the remainder of the match.

"I don't think Zina won because she was quicker," the 27-year old Hanika said. "I was just unlucky at important points. When she broke me at 4-3 in the third, that ball was in."

Garrison, 23, said her drop-shot and lob approach had helped lure her opponent to net so she could be passed.

"I knew how to use the lob," said Garrison, who collected \$33,300 for her victory. "I've watched some of the top players use it beautifully."

"I think I am stronger now," said Hanika, who won \$14,500. "I'm in better shape and enjoying it more, and of course it's more fun when things go well like this week."

Stage set for 39th world table tennis tournament

NEW DELHI (AP) — The 39th World Table Tennis Championships open Wednesday with 62 nations participating despite some stumbles over political controversy.

The prestigious meet will be inaugurated by President Zail Singh at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, returning to India for the first time since Calcutta played host in 1975.

China, the current titles holder and a world table tennis giant, is again the tournament favourite. A 21-player contingent has come with more than 30 officials.

China has kept the men's Swaythling Cup since 1981, easily handling possible challenge from Sweden and Hungary. China bagged six of the seven titles in 1983 and repeated the performance in 1985.

The Swaythling Cup was given in 1926 by Lady Swaythling, mother of Ivor Montagu, the founding president of the International Table Tennis Federation.

Other teams to watch for in the current competition are North Korea, South Korea, Sweden and Japan.

South Korea toppled China in the men's section during the Seoul Asian Games last year.

Rotten fruit rains down, as Pakistan, India draw

CALCUTTA (R) — Rotten fruit was thrown on the pitch from a crowd of 70,000 as Pakistan failed to take up the challenge on the last day of the second cricket test with India Monday.

Set 356 to win on a placid wicket, Pakistan, resuming at 16 for one, batted all day for only 163 runs, the final session yielding just 49. It closed on 179 for five with former captain Javed Miandad unbeaten on 63.

At lunch India had glimpsed victory with Pakistan 73 for three after man-of-the-match Roger Binny removed opener Rameez Raja for 29 and Kavi Shastri got Rizwan-Uz-Zaman for eight.

But Miandad, who came in well before lunch, held Pakistan

together, putting on 43 with nightwatchman Salim Yousuf, who made 43, for the fourth wicket, and 54 for the fifth wicket with Salim Malik, who scored 20.

The visitors' defensive approach brought barrages of rotten oranges from the huge crowd who hung out banners referring derisively to a pre-series pledge of positive cricket by Pakistan captain Imran Khan.

Ironically, it was Imran on five not out who helped ensure the draw.

With the first two tests ending in tame deadlock, the teams begin the third game of the five-match series in Jaipur on Friday.

Barcelona stretches lead of Spanish 1st Division

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Barcelona defeated Murcia 2-0 and its lead at the head of the standings in the Spanish Major League Soccer Championship was at four points more than second-placed Real Madrid, which lost 0-1 to Mallorca in the 27th round.

A crowd of 75,000 watched the match at Barcelona's Stadium where the local team, with two goals scored in a period of ten minutes, achieved victory.

Murcia fought with courage and launched sporadic counter-attacks dangerously.

The goals were scored in the second half by midfielder Roberto Fernandez in the 61st minute, and English striker Gary Lineker in the 71st.

Lineker, top scorer in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, was now second top scorer in the Spanish League with 14 goals scored so far, behind Real Madrid's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, who

has scored 22.

Real Madrid, reigning league champion, played a poor match before 35,000 fans filling Mallorcan's Luis Sitjar Stadium.

The home team played a superb match and the winning goal was scored by striker Enrique Magdaleno in the 16th. Magdaleno has scored 13 goals so far this season.

After Sunday's round, Barcelona is leading the standings with 41 points, four more points than Real Madrid.

Espanol of Barcelona kept third place in the standings, with 34 points, after winning away from home 3-1 over Santander. Espanol dominated in every department and its goals were by Angel "Pichi" Alonso in the 36th and Ernesto Valverde in the 58th and 88th.

Santander's only goal was put in by Valentin "Tino" San Sebastian from a penalty kick in the 61st.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One sterling	1.5275/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3385/95	Canadian dollar
	1.8125/35	West German marks
	2.0465/75	Dutch guilders
	1.5328/38	Swiss francs
	37.55/60	Belgian francs
	6.0370/0430	French francs
	1291/1292	Italian lire
	153.25/35	Japanese yen
	6.4750/4800	Swedish crowns
	6.9650/9700	Norwegian crowns
	6.8450/8500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	397.10/397.60	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices stood at record levels in late trading following Friday's higher close on the U.S. market and optimism, fuelled by weekend press comment, that the forthcoming U.K. budget will reduce and reform taxation and boost consumer spending, dealers said.

There is also speculation that the chancellor of the exchequer could pave the way for lower interest rates by reducing the public sector borrowing requirement target.

Leading stocks showed gains across the board and at 1530 GMT Monday the FTSE 100 share index was up 27.4 at a record high of 1,925.5 compared with its previous record of 1,925.2 on Feb. 9.

Shares showed little or no reaction to news that U.K. retail sales fell 2.6 per cent in January or that industrial output fell 0.6 per cent in December. The London market was also unaffected by the latest U.S. insider trading disclosures despite vague rumours here that some British market operators could be involved.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 17, 1967

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today you find it difficult to reach a satisfactory accord with those you want to be allied with. Be exact and look for better opportunities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't involve yourself in an argument between a partner and a bigwig and all works out well.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get important work done. Choose those interests you are best fitted for and enjoy them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't plan amusements that are too expensive. Be more thoughtful of your mate, also.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may get confused if a quarrel starts between a family tie and an outsider, but this soon ends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't take time away from your work to run an errand. Have a pep talk with co-workers and improve efficiency.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be careful in dealing with your mate and avoid a possible argument. Confer with experts who can help you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Tensions may rise, so get away from home early and do whatever pleases you. Try making new friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Some outside affair can deter you from carrying through with a plan to extend your activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A strange financial affair can interfere with a plan you've made. Be with good friends tonight for fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are uncertain what to do about an outside affair, but tonight you see how to make things work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) An intimate worry can deter you from going after the goals that mean the most to you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make sure you keep a promise you have made to a friend. Later you can have a good time with your mate.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will sway between the idealistic and the practical, so teach your progeny to schedule his, or her, time wisely so that things can be properly handled. Upon reaching maturity your child will be very charming in dealing with others. Sports are fine here.

OEAPEC-South Asia talks open in Delhi

NEW DELHI (OPECNA) — The first ever Indo-OAPEC seminar, aimed at South-South cooperation, got under way here on Monday amid a great deal of enthusiasm and expectation.

The enthusiasm is born out of the fact that for many of the Arab delegates, this is their first encounter with India. To them, this South Asian region with a population of about a billion people is potentially a very attractive market.

For the South Asian nations from Pakistan to Bangladesh and Nepal to Sri Lanka, opportunities to work on the facilities that have come up in the Arab World for exports and supply of essentials are commercially exciting.

The seminar, jointly sponsored by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Indian Ministry of Petroleum, will last

for two and half days. About 100 high-powered delegates are here in the Indian capital to take part in the discussions. For OAPEC, this is the first time that it is organising a seminar of this type in a developing region.

The main aim, according to an Indian official who has been instrumental in setting up the seminar for the host side, is to "make Arab friends aware of Indian capabilities and achievements, so that they will feel confident enough to do business with India and other countries of the region."

On the Indian side, nine petroleum and petrochemical organisations have joined hands to set up the Petroleum India International Consortium with the objective of making available highly skilled human resources and expertise for the developing nations. Last month, an agreement

was signed with Vietnam to explore for hydrocarbons.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have not yet defaulted on any repayment or servicing of their external debts. The region is considered a "safe bet" by most Western commercial banks.

The Indian government also expects that Arab funds will be forthcoming to India under the new economic policy of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has invited foreign investment, promising an open door policy.

"If India has to progress," Mr. Gandhi said recently, "it must keep the door open." He added that the Indian government would keep encouraging the flow of capital and technology to modernise local industries, but would like to move away from buying technology to developing it locally.

Austria to back poorest nations in Third World

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The Austrian government is interested in helping the poorest among developing countries and will support "democratic institutions" in the Third World, according to Foreign Minister Alois Mock.

The minister said that he had given instructions for a precise examination of the country's development aid policy to determine whether a shift in emphasis was required.

The parliamentary leader of the Austrian Socialist Party, Mr. Heinz Fischer, called on the government not to neglect the Third World.

Moreover, the Austrian Development Service has called for efforts "to get the country away from the tail end" of development aid among OECD countries.

The organisation, which is backed by the Austrian Catholic church, called on the foreign minister not to forget that the country had a commitment to donate 0.70 per cent of its GNP to development aid by 1990.

As an "immediate measure," it proposed the earmarking of \$38 million from the state budget each year for bilateral development aid.

WESTLEY, California (AP) — The country has billions of unusable tyres and an energy company says it has the answer: burn them.

A \$41-million plant is being built 145 kilometres south of San Francisco to consume more than 500 whole tyres a minute, creating steam for a turbine to generate electricity for 14,000 homes a year. It will be the first such plant in the nation.

"The technology is unique in North America," said Arch Ford, senior vice president of Oxford Energy Company.

Oxford obtained its system through an exclusive arrangement with Gumm-Mayer, West Germany's largest tyre retreader, which has run a tyre-burning facility since 1973.

New rules take effect on British takeover battles

LONDON (R) — New rules drawn up after last year's scandal over a takeover involving the brewing firm of Guinness took effect in the London stock market on Monday aimed at cleaning up corporate takeover battles and exposing share manipulations.

The rules drawn up by the takeover panel, a self-regulatory body of market practitioners, require all those who own more than one per cent of companies involved in takeovers to identify themselves and disclose their dealings on a daily basis.

"There will be much greater exposure of who's doing what. The aim is to shed sunlight on bids and avoid recurrences of things like the Guinness scandal," said Peter Fraser, a senior takeover panel executive.

The previous threshold for disclosure was five per cent. The new rules should prevent bid parties from hiding behind nominee names and prevent secret attempts to manipulate share prices, Fraser told Reuters.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is investigating last year's record £2.7 billion (\$4.1 billion) takeover by Guinness of a whisky manufacturer, Distillers.

Guinness has said it may have broken the law by bolstering the

value of its shares to increase the value of its offer. Last month, the company fired its chairman.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government has come under increasing pressure to replace the takeover panel with a new body with statutory powers to regulate takeovers.

The opposition Labour Party argues that takeovers, which last year were worth a record £16.5 billion (\$25 billion) compared to £6.4 billion (\$9.7 billion) in 1965, have damaged many productive and innovative industries.

The new rules will immediately affect some 30 takeovers and mergers which have yet to be decided, Fraser said.

Among the bids which may be affected are a £268 million (410 million) offer by food group Rank Hovis McDougall for Avon group and a £50 million (\$138 million) bid by Demerger Two for London and Northern group.

The stock exchange is itself stepping up monitoring of companies involved in takeovers. Its spokeswoman Anne Coleman said the exchange would scrutinise the shares of both bidder and offeree throughout bids instead of only looking at them in the event of unusual share movements.

Tyre-to-energy plant set up in U.S.

WESTLEY, California (AP) — The country has billions of unusable tyres and an energy company says it has the answer: burn them.

A \$41-million plant is being built 145 kilometres south of San Francisco to consume more than 500 whole tyres a minute, creating steam for a turbine to generate electricity for 14,000 homes a year. It will be the first such plant in the nation.

"The technology is unique in North America," said Arch Ford, senior vice president of Oxford Energy Company.

Oxford obtained its system through an exclusive arrangement with Gumm-Mayer, West Germany's largest tyre retreader, which has run a tyre-burning facility since 1973.

State, county and local officials have granted approval for the plant. But environmentalists fear its emissions, including carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and hydrocarbons.

"We are opposed not because we know it's going to be bad, but because we don't know it's not going to be bad," said Gordon E. Hart, executive director of Ecology Action. The group used unsuccessfully to stop construction on the Westley plant, which is to open near this farming community of 700 in the summer.

The nation has about a billion unretreadable tyres lying around, with 240 million more being discarded every year, or roughly one per person, according to the Department of Energy.

Millions of tyres are discarded along roads or stored at illegal dumps every year.

Other tyre disposal practices include building ocean reefs, using shredded rubber chips as asphalt additive for softer roads, adding them to farm waste burners as supplemental fuel, and shipping them overseas for burning or reapplying. Some dealers resell tyres below U.S. retreading standards to Third World countries, according to Oxford officials.

As fuel, tyres hardly can be rivalled, Ford said. Each contains the equivalent of 2.5 gallons (9.5 litres) of oil, enough to heat a house for a day.

U.S. dollar goes down in Europe after Baker comments on 'free fall'

LONDON (R) — Comments by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker have on American Television sent the dollar as low as 1.8090 West German marks in early European trading, but it recovered in mid-morning to around 1.8130, dealers said.

The dollar had closed in London on Friday at 1.8285 marks and in New York at 1.8170. Earlier on Monday in Tokyo it finished at 1.8222 marks and 153.77 yen, slightly down on Friday's levels.

Gold, traditionally a haven for some investors when the dollar is in trouble, was set Monday morning in London at \$397.20 an ounce, virtually unchanged from the Friday afternoon fixing of \$397.35.

Mr. Baker, speaking in an interview, said Monday that except for a few periods several weeks ago the dollar's recent decline had been orderly and moderate.

But he conceded that, if the U.S. currency were to fall too fast and too far, it could reignite domestic inflation.

Asked if the dollar was in a free fall, Mr. Baker said no, adding: "Suffice to say what has happened thus far to the United States dollar does not constitute a free fall."

U.S. markets were closed Monday because of a bank holiday marking George Washington's birthday.

The dollar has plunged from around 2.02 marks since mid-December, dipping to just below 1.77 marks in morning trading on January 28 — its lowest since the U.S. hostage crisis in Iran in January 1980 when it went to

1.7062. London dealers said Monday that, although Mr. Baker had made similar comments last week, the market had been looking for an excuse to drive the dollar down after it failed to head upwards in the past week.

They added that the market was somewhat hesitant ahead of a major speech by U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker on Thursday when the central bank chief is due to give an semi-annual review of the U.S. economy and money supply.

The said some operators in the market were keen to test lower support levels for the dollar, in an attempt to push it down to its record 1980 lows. But most dealers forecast the dollar would experience a smaller drop than that this week.

Persistent rumours that the powerful group of five finance ministers from the U.S., West Germany, Japan, France and Britain would meet to discuss the turmoil in the currency markets had recently given some support to the dollar. But dealers in London felt this was not as important a factor as it had been in trading last week.

Foreign exchange dealers in Europe said Mr. Baker's remarks on Monday were read as confirming a belief that the United States wants the dollar to keep

stiding, to make its exports more competitive and thus help narrow its huge trade deficit.

In the wide-ranging interview the treasury chief also made it clear that there was no dispute between him and Mr. Volcker on how far the dollar should decline. Speculation that this was the case has also been unsettling currency markets.

"I think the dollar has been stable in the sense that whatever decline has occurred has taken place in an orderly and moderate way save for a couple of periods of instability several weeks ago," he said.

Speaking on CBS television's "Nightwatch," Mr. Baker said that "if you get a dollar that declines too far, too fast you could get a resurgence of inflation," but added that neither he nor Mr. Volcker thought that the situation had arrived where this was happening.

"I don't think either of us feels we are there now," he said.

Mr. Baker defended the Reagan administration's record in the area of trade and in dealing with the budget deficit, adding that the dollar's decline should have some impact on the trade deficit, which hit about \$170 billion last year.

A weak dollar makes U.S. goods more attractive overseas while making foreign products more expensive in the U.S. market.

Mr. Baker said he believed the U.S. deficit would be reduced by \$20 billion this year because of the currency value realignment.

Egypt lowers oil prices

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has announced lower export prices for various blends of its crude oil on Monday as more than two million workers protested against a wage freeze imposed by the Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

The announcement on Sunday by state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) did not elaborate, but oil analysts said the price plunge, the first since last November, reflected less demand in the oil market with warmer weather in Europe.

The reduction, effective Monday until the end of the month, brought the price of Egypt's prime blend Suez and Ras Bahar to \$17.25 per barrel, down by 35 cents per barrel.

Egypt, which depends on oil for most of its hard currency earnings, is not a member of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but has stated its support for the group's efforts to cut production and raise prices.

Fresh strikes bring Greece to standstill

ATHENS (R) — A second nationwide strike within five days brought Greece to a standstill again on Monday as more than two million workers protested against a wage freeze imposed by the Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

Following up a strike involving a million workers last Thursday, the new stoppages grounded all flights of the national airline Olympic Airways and closed down factories, offices and shops across the nation.

The strikes were against an austerity programme introduced by Mr. Papandreu's government 16 months ago aimed at cutting inflation and reducing huge foreign debts.

Workers staged protest rallies in Athens and other cities and towns demanding that the government scrap the programme and award immediate wage increases.

Thousands of demonstrators in a central Athens square carried slogans saying "You Drink Our Blood," "No to Austerity" and

"More Wages." Economists say the average workers' living standards are set to fall by six per cent reduction last year.

The state employees union Adey said it would continue its strike Tuesday. Taxi drivers are also on a 48-hour strike and petrol stations closed for three days from Monday.

Bank clerks are already on a five-day strike.

The independent newspaper Eleftherotypia said strikes which began last month could cost the nation up to \$2 billion.

Mr. Papandreu, who came to power in 1981 and won a second term in office in 1985, says the austerity programme must run its course. It is due to be completed by the end of this year but some officials have hinted it may need to be continued next year.

Opposition leader Constantinos Mitsotakis said Mr. Papandreu, who does not have to call fresh general elections until 1989, would be forced to go to the polls by the end of this year.

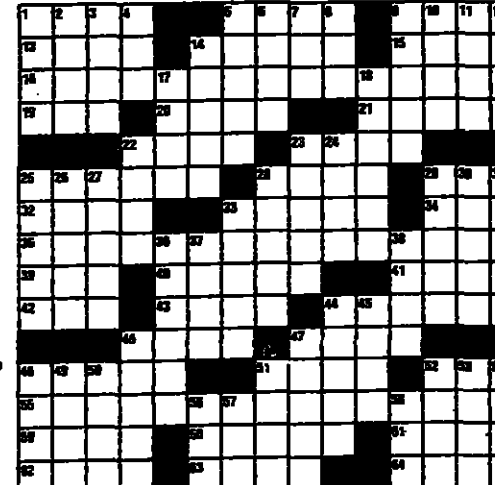
THE Daily Crossword by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- Where the captain stands
- Seaman
- Dull sound
- Eye part
- Boss or vote
- Dull delight
- Army VP
- Troust bait
- Fortifies
- Saunter
- Insect
- Reluctant
- Baseball's Ford
- nvs
- Health resort
- Super
- Abraham's wife
- de deuz
- Lucky places
- Byron's always
- Archib's "dingley"
- "Born Free" star
- Whiskey
- Severe
- Declined
- Green stroke
- Tumble
- Cast group
- Nimbus
- Depot: abbr.
- Extravaganza
- Issue
- Insect with a gift
- Pledge
- Straps
- Adress
- Emerson
- Steadfast

DOWN

- Shelter
- Blatant
- Tax
- Famous West
- Leasing
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- Spies
- Japan's name
- Composition
- Mace or mint

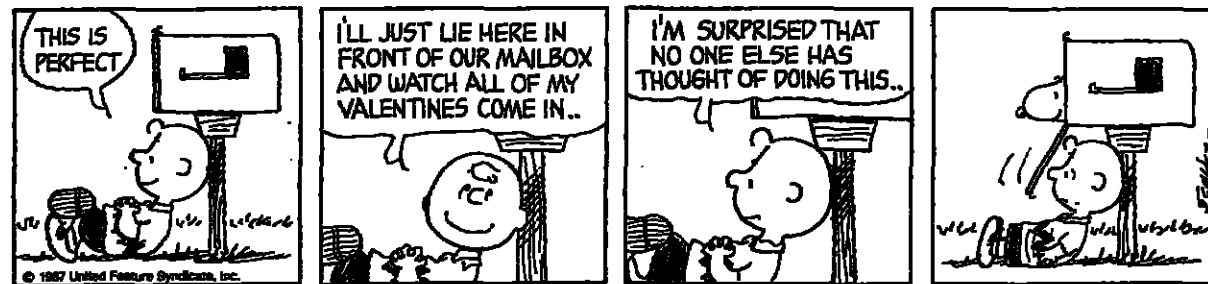


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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff

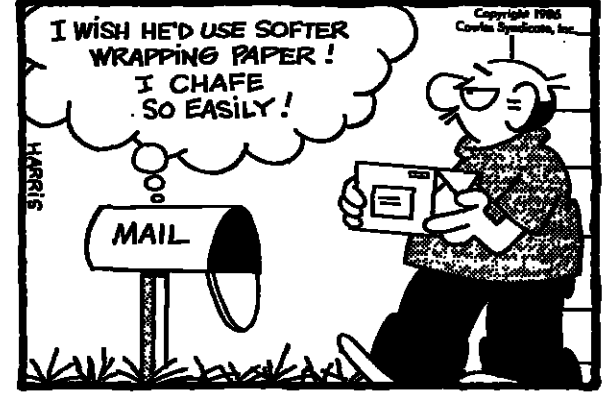


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

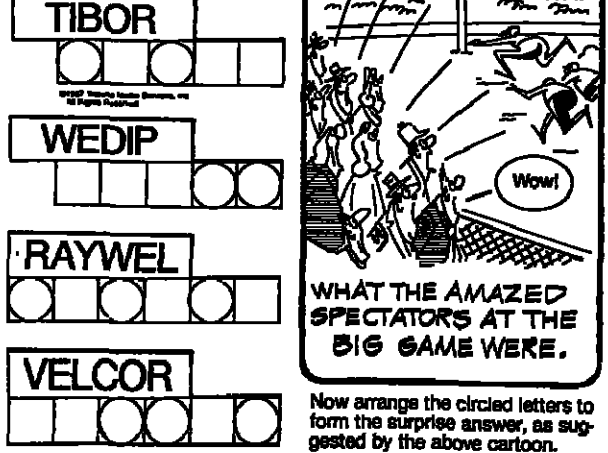
By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Herri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: TRIPE FISHY SINFUL INVITE

Answer: How they celebrated the New Year at that old-time saloon—WITH "FISH-IES"

Colombo vows to pursue army offensive until rebels lay down arms

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's current military offensive will continue until separatist Tamil guerrillas end hostilities and begin peace talks, a senior minister has said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali told a meeting over the weekend that "if the terrorists lay down their arms and come to the negotiating table we will certainly stop all armed operations against them."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the largest rebel group fighting for an independent homeland, has refused to enter into direct talks with the government and rejected its proposal for the creation of provincial councils as a means of ending alleged discrimination against Tamils.

At least 57 people were killed over the weekend as security forces consolidated and strengthened their positions in their offensive in the northern and eastern provinces.

Sixteen LTTE rebels, including two local leaders and their explosives expert, were killed Sunday when explosives they were fitting to a water tanker and tractor blew up in a garage in the northern town of Kithady, according to

a government spokesman. The spokesman said an unknown number of civilians were also killed in the blast. The rebels had planned to attack the nearby Navatkuli army camp with the explosives-laden tanker, he said.

The government's media centre said the 30 Tamil guerrillas were killed Sunday night when a special task force commander captured a rebel headquarters in the village of Kirinadukadu near Batticaloa, in eastern Sri Lanka.

A spokesman said the hideout belonged to the rebel group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Sources reached by phone in Batticaloa told AP they were unaware of a government raid at Kirinadukadu, about 19 kilometres to the south.

The government denied a report in Monday's independent Sun newspaper that said the present military offensive, now in its tenth day, had been halted to give troops time to rest.

The paper also said the offen-

sive had been suspended because some ministers believed this would help create a more positive climate for the resumption of Indian-sponsored peace talks.

Spokesman Tilak Ratnakara told Reuters the story was "false and unfounded" and no instructions had gone out to stop the operation, which he said was "continuing successfully."

Authoritative sources said an exchange of messages between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene last week included a request by Mr. Gandhi that the Sri Lankan government halt the offensive and lift a seven-week old fuel embargo on the Jaffna peninsula.

Mr. Jayewardene replied by saying the government appreciated India's peace efforts, but the LTTE would have to end hostilities and start negotiating if the military offensive was to stop, they said.

An influential Indian journalist, Narasimhan Ram, associate editor of the Madras-based Hindu newspaper, also began his own mediation efforts to bring the government and separatists to the negotiating table.

San Jose summit fails to agree on peace plan

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — The presidents of four Central American nations failed to agree Sunday night on a new peace plan for the region. But they said they would invite Nicaragua's chief executive to meet with them to discuss the proposal.

President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica proposed the 10-point plan, which calls for "democratisation" and new elections in Nicaragua, and asked the leaders of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to sign it and present to Nicaragua as an ultimatum.

Instead, they rewrote its preamble and asked Mr. Arias to give it to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, and invite Mr. Ortega to meet with them in Esquipulas, Guatemala, within 90 days.

Mr. Ortega, who has called the Costa Rican initiative part of a U.S. plot to politically isolate Nicaragua, was excluded from the San Jose meeting.

As originally written and given to reporters before the summit ended, Mr. Arias' plan would have given Nicaragua 15 days to accept the peace initiative.

But President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala let it be known before his arrival that he would not sign any document that violated his policy of "active neutrality."

Mr. Arias' plan had been expected to win support from Presidents Jose Azcona of Honduras and Jose Napoleón Duarte of El Salvador.

The four leaders met privately Sunday night and there was no official explanation afterwards why the proposal was not accepted.

Reuter adds from Miami: Adolfo Calero, one of three directors of the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebel alliance, was expected to resign on Monday from the troubled organisation under pressure from rival leaders and Reagan administration officials, rebel officials said.

Mr. Calero, considered the most conservative member of the directorate of the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO), was to announce his departure at a news conference at the group's Miami offices, according to rebel officials.

But Mr. Calero plans to remain as head of the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest of UNO's rebel armies, the officials said.

A Calero supporter depicted the move as a major concession to moderate elements of UNO represented by the group's other two directors, Arturo Cruz and Alfonso Robelo, both former officials in Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Four months after the meeting, there is still an "astounding degree of confusion surrounding what actually happened" and what the two leaders discussed and nearly agreed to, the report said.

"With the value of hindsight, it is possible to suggest that the Reagan administration was ill-prepared for the negotiations it participated in, and consequently, would have been ill-served had its product been accepted," the panel said.

The report was based on a series of hearings held by the committee's defence policy panel, which listened to a variety of witnesses, including several U.S. participants in the Iceland summit last Oct. 11-12.

White House officials declined comment on the report, saying they had not yet seen it.

Les Aspin, a Democrat and the chairman of the panel, said: "The complete record, from the decision to accept the Soviet invitation to the effort to put a favourable spin on the outcome, shows the White House in confusion and disarray."

Sweeping U.S. proposals for deep reductions in nuclear arsenals were never studied in advance by the Pentagon for their impact on the military balance, Mr. Aspin said.

This table-top approach is symptomatic of the whole problem."

The summit was proposed by the Soviets and accepted by Mr. Reagan in late September. The panel's report noted that "the announcement of a summit to take place in less than two weeks astonished most observers. Reagan's longstanding and considerable opposition to unprepared summits was well known."

The report noted that the summit came in the wake of the Soviet release of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff, arrested for allegedly possessing classified material, and the U.S. release of Gennadi Zakharov, a U.N. employee arrested for alleged espionage.

"There is yet to be a convincing explanation of the administration's claim that there was no trade of Daniloff for a Soviet spy, nor any linkage between the summit and the entire Daniloff affair," the report said.

Lambsdorff fined for tax evasion but cleared of corruption charges

BONN (Agencies) — Former West German Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff was convicted by a court in Bonn Monday of evading on donations to political party funds but was cleared of more serious charges of corruption.

Mr. Lambsdorff, 60, was fined 180,000 marks (\$100,000) on the tax evasion count.

His predecessor as minister, Hans Friderichs, was fined 61,500 marks (\$34,000) for evading tax and the former general manager of the Flick industrial company, Eberhard von Brauchitsch, was given a two-year suspended jail sentence and a 550,000 mark (\$306,000) fine.

All three were acquitted of corruption charges arising from allegations that Mr. Lambsdorff and Mr. Friderichs took bribes from Mr. Brauchitsch for their Free Democratic Party (FDP) in return for tax breaks for Flick.

The three had been on trial for 17 months. They had pleaded

innocent to the charges of tax evasion and corruption.

The trial was the most important to arise from the Flick scandal. In 1985, the Flick empire was sold to Deutsche Bank.

The conviction may cloud Mr. Lambsdorff's plans for a political comeback, perhaps recovering the Economics Ministry he ran from 1977 to 1984.

Mr. Lambsdorff was found guilty of evading or aiding the evasion of 1.5 million marks (\$850,000) in taxes on donations to the FDP while he was the party's treasurer in the state of north Rhine-Westphalia in the 1970s.

The money was alleged to have been channelled to the party illegally through non-profit organisations, whose status exempted them from tax.

Mr. Brauchitsch, who resigned as Flick general manager in 1982, was found to have evaded taxes of almost 18 million marks

(\$1 billion) for the company on party donations and on the proceeds of currency transactions.

Mr. Friderichs was convicted of evading taxes of 1.6 million marks (\$880,000) in political party donations from the Dresdner Bank, which he headed from the time of his resignation as minister in 1977 until 1985.

The corruption charges arose from allegations that Mr. Brauchitsch paid Mr. Lambsdorff and Mr. Friderichs 510,000 marks (\$285,000) for the FDP in return for an Economics Ministry-approved tax waiver for Flick.

The 450 million mark (\$250 million) waiver, on the sale of Flick shares in carmaker Daimler Benz in 1976 and 1979, has since been rescinded.

The Flick company was West Germany's biggest family-run private industrial holding company, with interests ranging from steel, tanks and explosives to cars, chemicals and insurance.

Strike paralyses Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh ground to a halt on Monday as a national opposition strike designed to press for the resignation of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad passed peacefully.

Opposition Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina hailed the strike as an "unprecedented success" and police described the stoppage as "total" with no reports of major violence.

In the capital Dhaka, a fire set by activists at an opposition party office was quickly extinguished and witnesses said police and opposition supporters threw stones and jeered at each other during the six-hour dawn-to-noon strike.

Witnesses said young protesters halted trains outside Dhaka but no damage was caused.

Airport officials said domestic flights operated "with whatever passengers were available" but international flights were postponed until afternoon.

There was no traffic and schools, colleges and businesses were closed, although some government employees walked to their offices.

In a bid to avoid clashes, the government halted state corporation buses and other vehicles. Authorities on Saturday asked police to protect people and property but warned them against taking action unless provoked.

Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleida Zia, head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said the strike was planned as a major anti-Ershad campaign and a new milestone in their efforts to restore "people's democracy."

Philippines troops swear allegiance to new charter

MANILA (R) — Top Philippine generals on Sunday led troops swearing loyalty to the country's new constitution in a move to rally the 250,000-man armed forces behind President Corason Aquino's government.

Defence Minister Rafael Iloilo, Chief of Staff General Fidel Ramos and about 1,000 soldiers raised their right hands before the Philippines flag at suburban Camp Aguinaldo and chanted: "I do solemnly swear to preserve and defend the constitution."

Generals and ordinary soldiers alike stood to attention and read their oaths, reading from mimeographed sheets of paper. Each soldier was required to sign the pledge, which will be entered in his personal records.

All soldiers and civilian employees at military headquarters were required to attend the ceremony, which coincided with a daily flag-raising ritual.

Military spokesmen said similar oath-taking ceremonies were held in camps across the country.

The military's loyalty oaths followed the ratification of a new constitution which took effect last Wednesday after a landslide vote in a February 2 plebiscite.

Nearly half the nation's military, unhappy about Mr. Aquino's conciliatory attitude towards communist rebels who have waged an 18-year insurgency, voted against the charter.

Mrs. Aquino warned soldiers last week they would have to swear loyalty or resign in an apparent bid to impose civilian authority on an army that has been rocked by two mutinies and several coup plots since she took power a year ago.

The latest revolt broke out on Jan. 27 when about 400 disgruntled soldiers tried to seize major military camps and television stations in the capital.

Lands of Marcos 'cronies' handed over to peasants

MANILA (R) — A commission tracking down the wealth of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos has handed over thousands of hectares of confiscated farmland for redistribution to poor peasants at cheap prices.

At a formal ceremony on Monday, the Presidential Commission on Good Government signed over 19,500 hectares of farmland to the agrarian reform department.

The land was recovered from associates of Marcos, who was deposed in a civilian-backed military revolt a year ago.

The commission also agreed to

hand over to the department any more land it recovers from Marcos or his associates.

"This is in compliance with the resounding cry of the Filipino people," said Commission Chairman Javita Salonga.

The department promised to allocate the holdings to landless peasants and farm labourers within four months of receiving them.

Marcos, whom the commission alleges stole \$5 to \$10 billion from the Philippines, alienated thousands of peasants by forcibly acquiring their lands, often under the names of his "cronies," for minimal compensation.

Reagan is against ratifying treaty on treatment of captives

NEW YORK (R) — President Ronald Reagan has moved against ratifying a part of a major revision of the 1949 Geneva conventions on treatment of combatants and war victims because it would give legal status to "terrorists," the New York Times reported Monday.

The New York Times, quoting administration documents, said Mr. Reagan would not submit Protocol 1, as the revision dealing with international armed conflicts is known, because it was "fundamentally and irreconcilably flawed."

The newspaper said notice of Mr. Reagan's decision was sent to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee without announcement two weeks ago. The president urged that Protocol 2, which deals with domestic conflicts, receive the consent of the Senate to ratification.

The United States signed the

two protocols in 1977 with the understanding that a decision on formal ratification would await a formal study by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Signing commits a nation to act in keeping with the treaty but only formal ratification gives the treaty legal force. If a nation that signs a treaty then refuses to ratify it, it is no longer obligated to abide by it.

"It is unfortunate that Protocol 1 must be rejected, the president was quoted as writing in a letter to the Senate committee. But, he added, "we must not and need not, give recognition and protection to terrorist groups as a price for progress in humanitarian law."

The administration has concluded that Protocol 1 would give credibility to "insurgents and terrorists" by giving their members the status of combatants and prisoners of war, the newspaper said.

Chinese students say they have not given up protests

PEKING (R) — The democracy movement on China's campuses has been silenced only temporarily, according to former protesters among the country's two million college students starting a new term on Monday.

Undergraduates who took to the streets of the capital in December and early January admit they are now lying low while an official drive to counter the influence of Western political ideas dominates the national media.

"But that doesn't mean we have given up," insisted a Peking University law student, who said he helped organise protest marches in the capital calling for freedom, democracy and human rights.

"The only thing that has changed is our tactics," he added. "I don't think there will be any demonstrations for a while, but we will be quietly discussing the same slogans."

The Chinese authorities' clampdown on the wave of student unrest began in January, coinciding with undergraduate

examinations and the start of Chinese new year holidays, when most students returned home to their families.

"The students haven't had the opportunity to discuss what to do next," the law student said. "The discussions will start now."

The People's Daily on Sunday urged students to "plunge themselves into the socialist modernisation drive," study more Marxism and not be seduced by "decadent" Western ideas.

Since the student demonstrations the official media has repeatedly condemned the protesters for promoting the "bourgeois liberalisation" of China.

Former party head Hu Yaobang, the party's propaganda chief and a number of prominent liberal-minded academics and writers have either been demoted, transferred or, in some cases, expelled from the organisation.

In addition, at least two students are known to have been arrested for alleged offences arising from the unrest.

Screening of 'Amerika' series sparks protests

NEW YORK (AP) — A candlelight vigil opposite the United Nations, picketing outside television stations and demonstrations by students at Yale University marked Sunday night's first installment of a miniseries about a Soviet takeover of the United States.

"Amerika," a 14½-hour ABC-TV series that depicts the Soviets' bloodless takeover of the United States, has been criticised as potentially damaging to U.S.-Soviet relations and peace efforts.

"We're very concerned about the negative impact it could have on U.S.-Soviet relations and public support for the United Nations," said Kathy Waters, project coordinator for Mobilisation

for Survival, a pro-disarmament group that organised the vigil.

Across town, the New York Spartacist League, which its leaders describe as a socialist labour organisation, led the demonstration outside ABC studios as the broadcast began.

The marchers chanted "World war three brought to you by ABC," and other slogans and carried signs.

"Amerika" has something insulting to say about every sector of the society," said Spartacist spokeswoman Marjorie Stamborg. "It's anti-communist, anti-Soviet and anti-American."

ABC spokesman Tom Mackin said the network had no response to the protests.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARBY
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—More and more players seem to be using weak two-bids to two clubs as the only forcing bid instead of the old forcing two-bids. Would you discuss the merits and drawbacks of the system?—N.E., Omaha, Neb.

A.—Before we discuss the advantages and disadvantages of weak two-bids, let's quickly outline the convention for those who are not familiar with it. Instead of using all opening two-bids to show powerful hands and length in the bid suit, bids of two spades, two hearts and two diamonds are used to show specific hands below opening bid strength.

Typically, the bid shows a good suit and a hand of 6-11 points. All hands that qualify for a strong two opening bid are instead opened with two clubs, and you show your suit on the next round.

The weak two-bid is a two-way weapon, both offensive and defensive in outlook. Since it describes a hand within fairly precise limits, it is easy for partner to judge the potential of the hand. And since you are forcing the opponents to act at a relatively high level, the bid has considerable preemptive value.

Another reason why weak two-bids are gaining in popularity is frequency of occurrence. Hands of 26 or so points crop up rarely, whereas weak hands with a six-

card suit are not at all uncommon. There are two drawbacks to using weak two-bids. One is that players tend to abuse the convention and open hands that are not suitable for weak two-bids because of suit quality or strength. The other is that strong two-suiters are awkward to handle with an artificial, strong two-club opening, so you have to open them with a one-bid in one of your suits and hope the auction doesn't die on you.

To give you an idea of how effective weak two-bids can be, suppose partner opens two hearts, the next hand passes and you hold one of the following hands:

1. ♠A ♠K ♠A107653 ♠82
2. ♠54 ♠J832 ♠8 ♠KQ765

With both hands you should raise to four hearts. In the first case, you expect to make it. In the second, you have no defense against an opposing game, so you increase the preempt to make it more difficult for the opponents to enter the auction. Imagine the predicament of your left-hand opponent who had been holding:

♠K10632 ♠94 ♠KQ92 ♠A

If he bids and catches you with the first hand, it might prove expensive. If he doesn't bid and you have the second hand, he is missing a game and possibly a slam.

Chernobyl deaths estimated to reach 75,000

CHICAGO (R) — The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Ukraine last year could result in as many as 75,000 cancer deaths over the next 50 years, according to a top U.S. medical consultant.

Dr. Robert Gale, head of a team of specialists who performed bone-marrow transplants on Chernobyl victims, estimated that between 5,000 and 150,000 excess cases of cancer would occur worldwide because of the accident. About half of those who developed cancer were likely to die from the disease.

"By percentage, that's a relatively small number for the billions of people exposed... but it's a tragic figure, all the same, and the Soviets are trying to do what they can to identify those at highest risk," Dr. Gale told scientists at the annual meeting on

Sunday of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Gale said he based his estimates on three recent studies, all of which came to similar conclusions.

The countries other than the Soviet Union likely to suffer the most deaths are Germany, Italy, and Poland, Dr. Gale said, although he has not yet made specific estimates on the number of people likely to die in each country.

He estimates 35 Americans will die from cancer during the next 50 years as a result of the radiation they received from radioactive gas that drifted over the United States in the days after the accident.

Dr. Gale is involved in the initial stages of a long-term study

of 135,000 people evacuated from the area surrounding the plant. Those people are now scattered across the Soviet Union and must be identified, the levels of radiation they received must be determined and blood samples must be taken.

He has just returned from a tour of the Soviet reactor and the area surrounding the plant. He described a land of ghost towns that have been turned into a military base 95 kilometres in diameter.

At the centre, two of the four reactors are still working at one hundred per cent capacity, Dr. Gale said. A third reactor is considered too radioactive to be safe for operators to work in and the fourth reactor, the one damaged by the accident, is still hot from the accident.

He said workers at the plant running the two reactors and cleaning up the accident are driven in each day from several villages built just outside the restricted zone. When workers have been exposed to a prescribed level of radiation usually after several weeks, they are no longer allowed to work at the plant, Dr. Gale added.

Because there has been no damage to the town, he said many of the inhabitants are anxious to return to their homes, not realising that radiation is impossible to detect without specialised equipment.

Dr. Gale also said that while none of the babies whose mothers were exposed to high levels of radiation has been born with birth defects, "a small number, perhaps twenty, may grow up mentally retarded."



BBC newscaster attacked in office

LONDON (AP) — Three men sprayed something in the face of newscaster Jan Leeming and snatched her bag during an attack Sunday night inside the British Broadcasting Corporation's television centre, police said.

Police said the intruders got away after the attack. Ronald Neil, BBC TV news editor, said he saw 44-year-old Miss Leeming at Hammersmith hospital later and she was "shocked and shaky." He said "her eyes have been cleaned but we don't know what was sprayed" in them. Miss Leeming "challenged three men she disturbed in an office on the seventh floor and one took a canister from his pocket and sprayed her in the face. We do not know what the substance was," said a spokesman at Scotland Yard.

London's police headquarters. The BBC replaced Miss Leeming on the 9:10 p.m. newscast. The corporation said her bag was found later inside the TV centre but it didn't know if anything was stolen. The BBC was expected to hold an inquiry into how the intruders got into the building at White City. The centre is tight with guards and security barriers and every visitor has to show a pass.

Another man arrested near Kensington Palace

LONDON (AP) — A man who approached a private area at Kensington Palace, London home of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, was detained by police Sunday night, Scotland Yard said. The London police headquarters said the man was not a threat to security but was being looked after because of concern for his mental welfare. It was the second incident at the palace in five days. On Wednesday night, a man was arrested after attacking two policemen who grabbed him before he could climb the wall of the 17th century red-brick palace. In magistrates' court next day, Bela Mark Stifter, 27, was remanded in custody accused of being equipped for theft and harming the two officers. As royal press officers could not be contacted, it was not clear which members of the royal family were in Kensington Palace Sunday night. It is also the home of several relatives of Queen Elizabeth II, including her sister Princess Margaret, who is vacationing in the Caribbean.

Murder suspect says he is Gorbachev's son

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A man charged with killing a Soviet military attaché was ordered to undergo psychiatric testing after telling a court he was the son of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a newspaper reported Monday. The newspaper Muslim said the case of Zafar Ahmad was postponed on its first day Sunday after the accused made a series of outbursts in the courtroom. Ahmad is charged with killing Soviet Military Attaché Colonel Fyodor Gorenkov last September. Pakistani officials said at the time that Ahmad had been hanging around the Soviet embassy for weeks trying to emigrate to the Soviet Union and he appeared to be mentally disturbed. The Muslim reported that Ahmad babbled in a mixture of Russian and English when he was brought into court Sunday for the start of hearings in his case. "I am son of Gorbachev," and "Papa Gorbachev save me," the newspaper quoted him as saying. The court ordered the case adjourned until next month and sent Ahmad for psychiatric examination.

Floating yen lures people into sewage

TOKYO (R) — Treasure-hunters near Tokyo braved a local sewage canal when they saw hundreds of thousands of yen floating in the muck, police said. Police in Chiba city have collected 194 10,000-yen notes (worth a total of \$12,900) from the sewer since the first bill floated to the surface on Saturday. "We don't know if someone just dropped the money or what," a police spokesman said. "No accidents were reported near there and no one claimed the loss, so we'll have to wait and see." Local newspapers reported that boys combed the water with long fishing nets and some men jumped into the canal but only police were reported to have recovered any of the banknotes.